**Church admits 'tensions' between El Shaddai, priests** Story Below, Col. 1

### MILF blows whistle on killer of Irish priest

**By Edwin O. Fernandez**
*PDI Mindanao Bureau*

COTABATO CITY—The leader of an armed group that killed a popular Irish missionary priest in Lanao del Sur in 2001 is now in government custody, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) said yesterday.

MILF/ A18

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

### Braganza: I can work under a tree

**By Fe Zamora**
*INQ7.net*

MASKI SAAN P'WEDE!

THE NEW press secretary doesn't need a room in Malacañang for an office, saying that he can work anywhere, even under a tree.

BRAGANZA/ A20

Friday, January 24, 2003 ★★ 62 pages / 4 sections / vol. 18 / no. 47 P15 website: www.inq7.net

# Ex-NPA chief killed in QC; Joma blamed

KINTANAR

## *Three hours earlier, he endorsed peace talks*

**By Alcuin Papa and TJ Burgonio**

**HIS LAST meal consisted of sushi, tempura and rice, hardly the spartan fare of the peasant-based army of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) that he once had led.**

After his meal at the Kamameshi Restaurant inside the Quezon Memorial Circle in Quezon City, two unidentified gunmen approached Romulo Kintanar, former chief of the New People's Army (NPA), and shot him dead at around 1:30 p.m. yesterday.

About three hours earlier, Kintanar told ABS-CBN in an interview that he was supporting the peace process. Now is the time for reform, not revolution, he said.

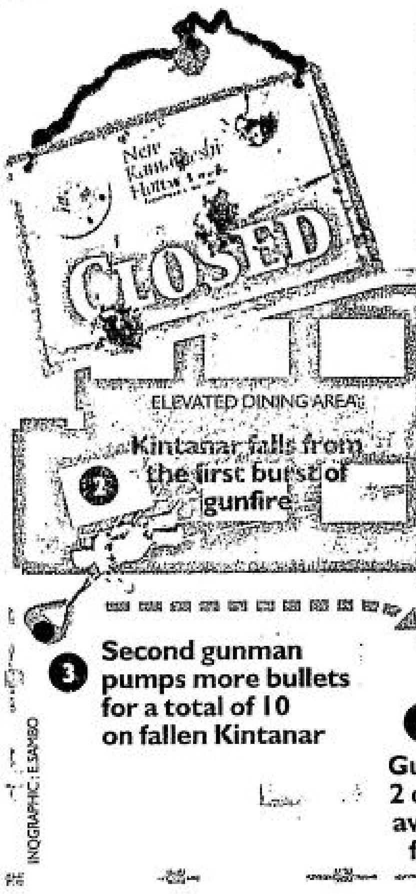
Top military and police officials were quick to blame the CPP and NPA for the daring ambush. Kintanar's remains lie at Funeraria Paz on Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Kintanar's killing came more than a year after a former comrade, Filemon "Popoy" Lagman, was shot dead on the nearby University of the Philippines campus. Like Kintanar, Lagman and his Manila-Rizal Party Committee of the CPP broke away in the 1990s from the main CPP faction loyal to Jose Ma. Sison, the party founder. Lagman later formed his own leftist group.

Kintanar went his own way after severing ties with the CPP-NPA over ideological differences with Sison, who is now based in Utrecth, the Netherlands.

Kintanar, 53, was with Ricky Beltran and Ed Ruiz, reportedly his colleagues at the Bureau of Immigration where he was

EX-NPA CHIEF/ A19


New Kamameshi
CLOSED
ELEVATED DINING AREA
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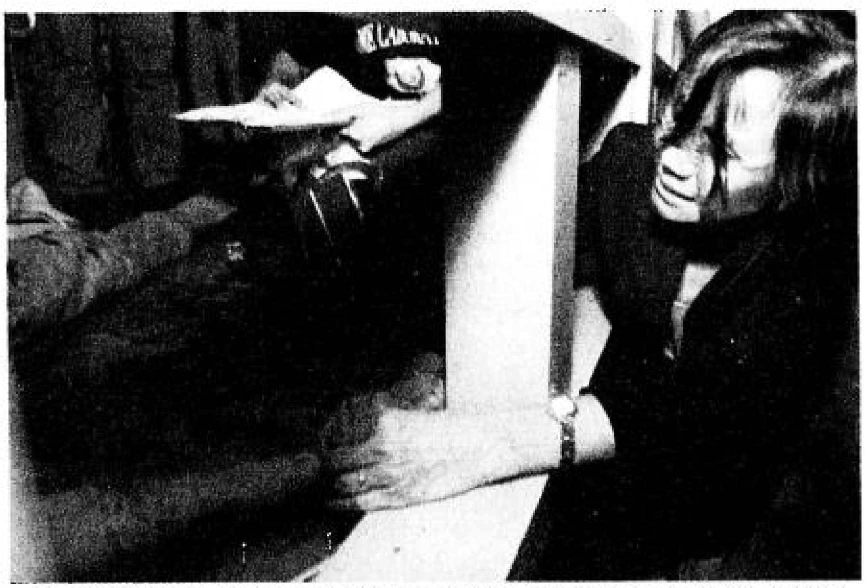
INQGRAPHIC: E.SAMBO


"WHOEVER did this must pay," vows Joy, the widow of Rolly Kintanar who rushed to the crime scene inside a Japanese restaurant at the Quezon City Memorial Circle. DENNIS SABANGAN

1 First gunman with cap and shades shoots Kintanar
4 Gunmen with 2 others walk away toward front door

LUNCHEON DATE with death: Kintanar is felled by 10 bullets with fatal shots to the heart and lungs. REUTERS

## Lightning strikes twice for tragic Joy

**By PDI Research and Jhunnex Napallacan and Carla P. Gomez**
*PDI Visayas Bureau*

LIGHTNING has struck the Kintanar widow, Maria Gloria "Joy" Asuncion, twice.

"Whoever did this must pay," said a distraught Joy who wore black when she rushed to the scene of the crime two hours after her husband was shot dead by two still unidentified gumen *(See banner story.)*

It was happening to her again.

Almost 29 years ago, on Jan. 26, 1974, Joy married her first boyfriend and college sweetheart, Edgar Jopson, popularly known to comrades in the communist movement as Edjop.

Like her second husband, Rolly Kintanar, she lost Edjop to a volley of gunfire.

Edjop was a well-known student leader and former president of the National Union of Students of the Philippines before the declaration of martial law. He was arrested on June 14, 1979 in Las Piñas along with six other people by a raiding team from the Philippine Constabulary, the forerunner of the Philippine National Po-

LIGHTNING/ A0

## NPA reached its peak under Kintanar command

**By Maricar Tolosa,** *PDI Research*
**and Connie E. Fernandez**
*PDI VIsayas Bureau*

THE NEW People's Army reached its peak of 25,000 armed regulars just two years after Romulo "Rolly" Kintanar took over its command in 1985.

The strength of the armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) has since dropped to less than 12,000 armed regulars.

Kintanar was promoted to chief of the NPA general command after leading more than 100 battles, mostly in Mindanao.

That year, 1985, he hatched a plot to hold hostage members of the Batasang Pambansa aimed at sparking a revolt against Ferdinand Marcos in 1985, but CPP leaders called it off.

It was Kintanar who organized urban assassination squads targeting police, soldiers and other officials. In 1989, the NPA killed US Army Col. James Nick Rowe. Kintanar was never charged for the killing.

Kintanar was 18 and a college freshman at the Ateneo de Davao when he joined the NPA in 1970. In 1972, he forged a friendship with military intelligence chief Col. Victor Corpus, then NPA's commanding officer, after fighting together against the military in the jungles of Isabela during their operations to

NPA/ A18

## US pays reparation to 4 farmers

**By Tonette Orejas**
*PDI Central Luzon Desk*

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—Four Filipinos have been compensated by the US government for the damage to their farms and crops caused by the emergency landing in Zambales of four US Marine Corps helicopters in August last year.

Foreign Undersecretary Amado Valdez, executive director of the Presidential Commission on the Visiting Forces Agreement (VFACom), yesterday confirmed that "adequate" payment had been made to the four farmers—all of Sitio Macanta, Barangay Lucapon South, in Sta. Cruz, Zambales.

But Valdez declined to disclose the amount, invoking a "general policy" aimed at preventing "unscrupulous persons" from making "falsified claims."

The farmers received the compensation on Jan. 13, or five

US/ A17

## Palace 'joke' on Abaya appointment hailed

**By Dona Pazzibugan and Martin Marfil**

THE PRESIDENT'S spokesperson tried to pass it off as a joke, but everyone else took the President's hint—that Lt. Gen. Narciso Abaya is the next Armed Forces chief of staff—seriously.

The incumbent chief of staff, Gen. Dionisio Santiago, said it was a "good decision" and that he could now consult his "mistah" (schoolmate) on future plans.

A former AFP chief of staff, Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, welcomed the news about Abaya, whose qualifications and track record, he said, "cannot be questioned."

And Abaya himself was on Cloud Nine. "I am humbled by the show of trust and confidence of President (Macapagal) Arroyo for me to lead the AFP," an elated Abaya told reporters.

In a visit to Datu Odin Sinsuat, Maguindanao, on Tuesday, Ms Macapagal referred to Abaya, the Southern Command chief, as the "next chief of staff." When she spoke to reporters in Davao City that night, she praised Abaya's battle record and strongly hinted that he would be the next chief of staff.

But in his regular news briefing yesterday, presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said the President's statements did not

PALACE/ A17

## Church admits 'tensions' between El Shaddai and parish priests

**By Armand N. Nocum**

THE "TENSIONS" arising between renewal groups such as the El Shaddai and parish priests who resent these groups' raiding of their flock are among the "difficulties" facing the Catholic Church today.

This issue, long a subject of hush-hush talk in the Catholic lay circle, was acknowledged yesterday by newly installed Novaliches Bishop Teodoro Bacani in a speech delivered at the Fourth World Meeting of Families ongoing at the Philippine International Convention Center.

Bacani, who serves as spiritual adviser of the El Shaddai led by Mike Velarde, said parish priests should set aside their "parochial mentality" and "think more in terms of pastoral care rather than in terms of control."

But at the same time, he urged the leaders of these renewal groups to discard the "dictatorial" stance and coordinate their actions with the parishes and communities "from which they draw their recruits [and] resources."

"In no case should they allow themselves to appear as a parallel church interested only in swelling their ranks at the expense of the parishes," he said.

Bacani said the El Shaddai and the other renewal groups—Couples for Christ, Cursillo Movement, Marriage Encounter Movement and Catholic Charismatic Renewal Movement—were providing a "complementary environment for Christian growth."

"These movements of necessity have to draw their personal re-

CHURCH/ A20

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MAGKI SAAN P'WEDE!

**By Fe Zamora**
*INQ7* [illegible]

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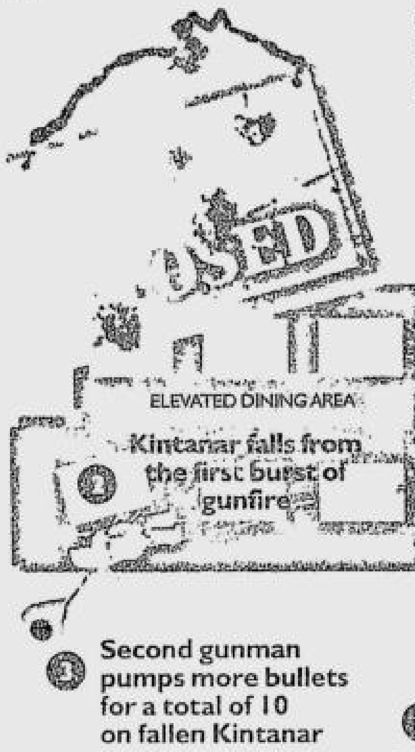
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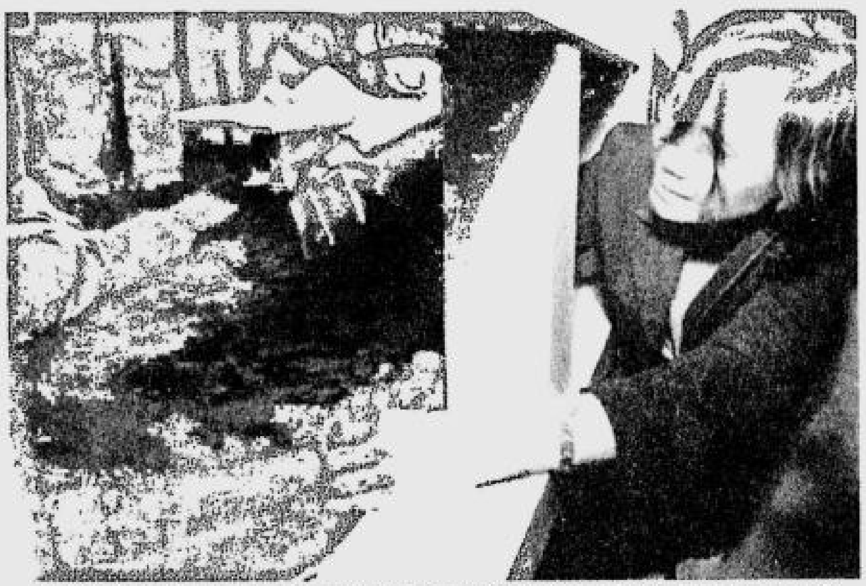

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NPA/A16

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It was happ[illegible] Almo[illegible] boyfriend heart. Ed[illegible] known to comrade munist movement

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*PDI [illegible]tral Luzon D[illegible]*

CLARK SPECIAL [illegible] OMI ZONE [illegible] Filipi[illegible] compen[illegible] ment [illegible] farms and crops [illegible] emergency landing of four US Marine Corps [illegible] copters in August [illegible]

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CHURCH A20

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**WEATHER FORECAST**

FORECAST: The Eastern section of Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/01/24/03

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Metro Manila | Partly Cloudy | Iloilo/Bacolod | Cloudy with Rains |
| Baguio | Partly Cloudy | Roxas | Cloudy with Rains |
| Tuguegarao | Partly Cloudy | Cebu | Cloudy with Rains |
| Laoag | Partly Cloudy | Tacloban | Cloudy with Rains |
| Clark Zone | Partly Cloudy | Gen. Santos | Cloudy with Rains |
| Tagaytay | Partly Cloudy | Zamboanga | Cloudy with Rains |
| Legazpi | Cloudy with Rains | Cagayan de Oro | Cloudy with Rains |
| Calapan | Cloudy with Rains | Davao | Cloudy with Rains |

# Impeachment rap dead—Palace

**By Dona Z. Pazzibugan and Christine O. Avendaño**

MALACAÑANG said yesterday the impeachment complaint against President Macapagal-Arroyo was "dead" since not even opposition lawmakers would endorse it.

"I think it's a further waste of time to discuss the (complaint)," said presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye. "Nobody is touching it, nobody is sponsoring it. We can consider it dead."

Former senators Juan Ponce Enrile and Francisco Tatad had signed the impeachment complaint, which Koalisyon convenor Linda Montayre had tried to peddle in the House on Monday. Koalisyon is a new alliance of groups opposed to the President.

Speaker Jose de Venecia said the charges of corruption listed in the complaint were the same ones made against the First Couple that were never substantiated.

"Like the (members) of the House, I feel the charges are baseless and they don't deserve further attention," Bunye, himself a former congressman from Muntinlupa, said.

Despite the setback they suffered at the House, Montayre, an official of the People's Consultative Assembly, another group staunchly against the President, said Koalisyon was not giving up.

The group is sending copies of the impeachment complaint to other "political forces" such as the communists and military reformists for their "endorsement," Montayre said.

Koalisyon failed to have its 22-page complaint filed at the House after no congressman would endorse it in accordance with impeachment rules.

The complaint accuses the President of culpable violation of the Constitution, bribery, graft and corruption, and betrayal of the public trust, "(the) very same offenses for which her predecessor Joseph Estrada was impeached," Montayre said.

Monday coincidentally was the second anniversary of the Edsa II revolt that ousted Estrada.

Montayre said that aside from Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal, spokesperson of the communist New People's Army, Church and other group leaders will be sent copies of the complaint.

"We will take it to the people... let the people judge," Montayre told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

She said her group will continue to try to woo opposition congressmen to endorse the complaint, after several legislators asked about the impeachment bid when she went to the House Wednesday night.

The House minority said it will decide in two weeks whether to support the impeachment complaint.

Maguindanao Rep. Didagen Dilangalen, who was assigned by the minority to study the complaint, said he has begun looking into the evidence gathered by Koalisyon and a decision should be ready by the first week of February.

"We want to be fair," said Dilangalen in a phone interview. "The common denominator here is the public interest."

Bayan Muna Rep. Crispin Beltran said he was asked by Montayre to support the complaint, but he and fellow Representatives Satur Ocampo and Liza Maza and other Bayan leaders had yet to sit down to discuss it.

## Original Erap team asked to come back

JOSEPH Estrada's court-appointed lawyers are now wishing for his original team of attorneys to "come back" and help them secure witnesses in defense of the deposed president.

With prosecutors in the Estrada plunder trial expected to rest their case next month, defense lawyer Prospero Crescini said his team definitely needs cooperation from Estrada himself and his legal advisers.

"I hope they will come back (in the case). We've been doing all we can but it's really difficult," said Crescini.

Two weeks ago, Crescini told reporters that the defense team planned to call in "around 80 witnesses."

"With the President not really cooperating, we do not even know yet who this 80 or more witnesses will be."

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### 'NO POLITICAL WILL'

# Gov't still has to collect P540B in VAT–Angara

**By Cynthia D. Balana**

THE GOVERNMENT has no right to impose the 10-percent value-added tax (VAT) on professionals because it failed to demonstrate the political will to collect some P540 billion in uncollected VAT.

This was stressed yesterday by Sen. Edgardo Angara who earlier filed Senate Resolution No. 167 seeking to defer anew the revenue order that imposes the VAT.

"With the uncollected VAT almost twice the national budget for 2003, the national government does not have any reason to increase the VAT on professionals and the entertainment industry," he said.

Angara said that an efficient revenue collection strategy, not a tax increase, was the solution to the government's revenue collection shortfall.

Angara said that it was not also sound policy to increase taxes when the economy is contracting.

He said that the entertainment industry was practically on its knees due to film piracy and poor theater attendance.

"It is also a heavily taxed economic sector, with taxes amounting to 55 percent of gross receipts," he said.

Angara said that imposing another 10 percent VAT on the entertainment industry was harsh, untimely and counter-productive.

Angara cited a government study which showed the total uncollected VAT from 1989 to 1999 alone totaling P540 billion, or almost double the entire national budget proposed for this year.

For the same period, he said, the average tax evasion was 63.8 percent.

The senator also reiterated that the government should focus on collecting the billions of pesos in uncollected VAT instead of pushing through with the new revenue order.

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## SPEAKING ENGAGEMENT OR FACING JUDGMENT?

# Lacson skips session, leaves for US

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

SEN. PANFILO Lacson left quietly for United States yesterday for a week-long visit to California, the same state where a court has ordered him to pay a $3-million judgment to a Filipino-American arms supplier.

According to a travel authority issued by Senate President Franklin Drilon on Jan. 15, Lacson would be away from Jan. 23 to Feb. 2 to attend the 8th anniversary and induction ball of the Caviteños of Southern California as the keynote speaker and inducting officer. The affair is set for Sunday, Jan. 26.

A source said Lacson left at 1 p.m., although his office refused to confirm or deny his trip. Lacson was absent from the Senate session yesterday morning.

A member of his staff confided to the INQUIRER that his departure was deliberately kept private to avoid the suspicion the trip had anything to do with the $3-million judgement a California court had issued against him.

Last Wednesday, Lacson said he was going to the US "before Mar. 5" to appeal the court's prior ruling that had declared him in default of the cases filed by arms supplier Blanquita Pelaez.

LACSON

Pelaez had sued Lacson after he allegedly blocked full payment for 41,297 pairs of handcuffs worth P16.5 million that she had supplied the Philippine National Police in 1996. Lacson became PNP chief in 1998.

The court ordered Lacson to present on Mar. 5 documents pertaining to his US bank accounts from which the judgement would be satisfied.

Lacson's lawyer, Sigfried Fortun, said his client called him up at around 1 p.m. yesterday to say he was in a plane with Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon on the way to Hong Kong to meet with the Filipino community there.

Fortun said the senator did not mention his case in the US in their conversation. He said he wouldn't be able to represent Lacson in the US anyway since he was not licensed to practice there.

Lacson had also reportedly sought the assistance of Solicitor General Alfredo Benipayo in appealing the US court's judgement, since the case stemmed from a contract involving the Philippine government.

Lacson maintained the US court would not be able to satisfy the judgement since he did not have any active bank accounts or any other assets like real estate in the US or anywhere else in the world.

"My offer still stands—if they can find anything, they can have it," Lacson said a statement released late yesterday afternoon.

Lacson said there was nothing new about the revelation of Pelaez's lawyer, Rodel Rodis, that his wife, Alice de Perio Lacson, had a bank account in the US.

He said he was even the one who confirmed the existence of his wife's bank account is the US when he was interpellated by Sen. Noli de Castro in the Senate. The account, he said, was closed in 2001.

Fortun said Lacson cannot be detained in California despite the court judgement against him since he has been given until Mar. 5 to comply with the court's order to present documents pertaining to his bank accounts.

"Only after Mar. 5 can there be a determination if he can be cited for contempt for failing to comply with the order," Fortun said.

Fortun said Lacson was not even validly served the US court order since it was Rodis who furnished him with a copy during a TV talk show on Jan. 21.

Fortun, Lacson and Rodis were guests on "Strictly Politics" on the ANC Channel.

Fortun said Rodis was not the proper authority to serve the order since the court had clearly stated that it could only be served by a sheriff or marshall of the court, or by an appointed person by the name of Federico Cristobal Jr.

"What was highly irregular was that Rodis merely gave Lacson a photocopy of the court order. How do we know the document was authentic?" Fortun said.

Lacson insisted he was not "served" a copy of the order during the talk show.

"I just wanted to see a copy and he (Rodis) showed it to me. Then he told me to keep it," Lacson said.

Rodis said California law allows him to serve the order. *With Cynthia D. Balana and TJ Burgonio*

# Solons told OFWs to bear brunt of anti-money laundering sanctions

THE CONTINUED delay in amending the anti-money laundering law may restrict the flow of remittances from millions of overseas contact workers to their families here.

A representative of the overseas Filipino workers expressed this fear on Wednesday during a joint hearing of the House committees on banks, justice and economic affairs.

The committees are chaired by Reps. Jaime Lopez, Marcelino Libanan and Oscar Moreno respectively.

Noel Josue, executive director of KAIBIGAN ng OFWs, representing the OFWs, said during the hearing that Filipinos living and working abroad send home at least $8 billion a year to family and friends, contributing half a percentage point or more to the country's annual gross national product.

The Philippine's version of the law doesn't comply with the international standards being implemented by different governments all over the world which may result to non-remittance of their earnings being channeled through banks to support their families.

The minimum damage is delay of the remittances and the maximum is remittances will not reach the recipients at all, Josue said.

He said that the estimated seven million OFWs, have asked Congress to amend the crucial anti-money laundering law.

Anti-Money Laundering Act (AMLC) and Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Gov. Rafael Buenaventura said that the Philippine economy, including its vital overseas remittances, would be badly affected if the country failed to amend its anti-money laundering law by next month.

According to the Paris-based Financial Action Force (FATF), failure to pass the amendments by Feb. 12 could result in punitive countermeasures. FATF's key demands are to lower the threshold for the automatic reporting of transactions from the current P4 million to P500,000 and to allow the law's monitoring body, the AMLC, to probe bank accounts without requiring a court order.

Congress passed the anti-money laundering law in Sept. 2001, but FATF has said the legislation does not go far enough to the international standards.

Buenaventura warned that if remittances were delayed because of countermeasures the total social cost to the country could be around P1 billion a day. The calculation was based on the temporary losses of purchasing power as recipients await payment as well as borrowing costs incurred from having to tap funds from banks or informal sources to cover immediate needs.

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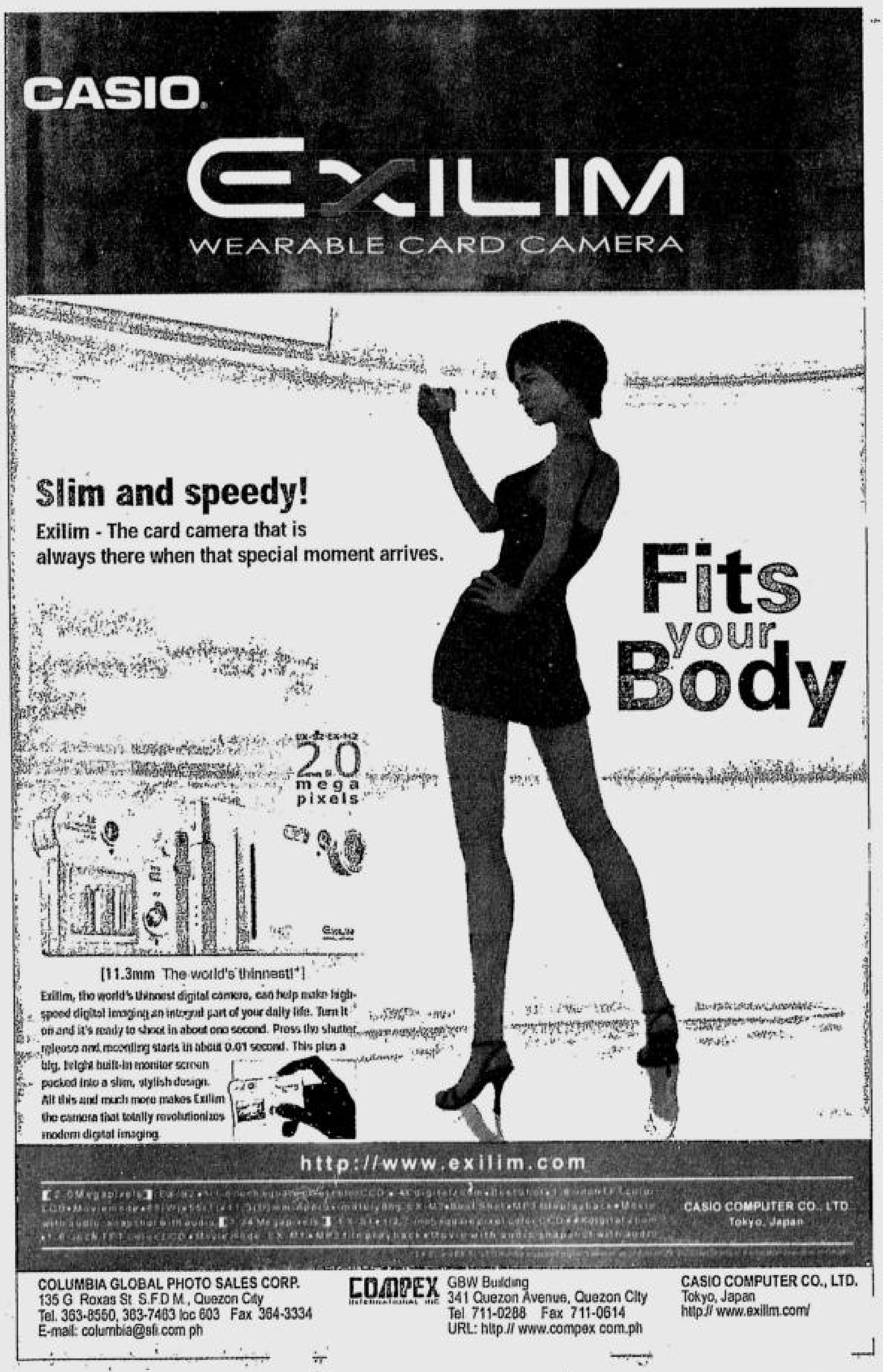

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**Judicial and Bar Council**
**Manila**

Pursuant to Section 1, Rule 7 of the Rules of the Judicial and Bar Council (JBC-009), as amended, the public is hereby notified of the Panel Interview at the old Supreme Court Session Hall, Third Floor, Old Supreme Court Building, Taft Avenue, Manila of the following applicants/recommendees for the position of **ASSOCIATE JUSTICE OF THE COURT OF APPEALS**:

MONDAY, 10 FEBRUARY 2003 (10:00 AM)
1. Ata, Loreto C.
2. Besana, Lolita C.
3. Brion, Arturo D.

(2:00 PM)
1. Daway, Reynaldo B.
2. De Castro, Antonio I.
3. Dela Peña, Jesus S.
4. Dicdican, Isaias P.

TUESDAY, 11 FEBRUARY 2003 (10:00 AM)
1. Gacutan, Angelita A.
2. Gonzales, Charito B.
3. Grulla, Cielito M.

(2:00 PM)
1. Guevarra, Irene R.
2. Infante, Amelia T.
3. Ismael, Harun B.
4. Laggui, Antonio N.

WEDNESDAY, 12 FEBRUARY 2003 (10:00 AM)
1. Magpale, Arsenio J.
2. Mendoza, Jose C.
3. Morales, Leticia P.

(2:00 PM)
1. Nabong, Juan C. Jr.
2. Olairez, Ricardo N.
3. Panganiban, Delia H.
4. Pizarro, Normandie B.

THURSDAY, 13 FEBRUARY 2003 (10:00 AM)
1. Ranada, Santiago J. Jr.
2. Son, Raineldo T.
3. Tagle, Lucenito N.

(2:00 PM)
1. Taypin, Aproniano B.
2. Tipon, Artemio S.
3. Trajano, Cresenciano B.
4. Yatco, Antonio T.

**As stated in the amended rule, the interviews shall be conducted in public.**

20 January 2003.

(Sgd.) **LUZVIMINDA D. PUNO**
Clerk of Court
Ex Officio Secretary

# 1.2M execs said to favor Cha-cha, shift to parliament

**By Juliet Labog-Javellana**

THE COUNTRY'S 1.2 million local officials, from governors down to barangay councilors, are unanimous in wanting the 1987 Constitution amended, including changing the form of government to a parliamentary one.

Davao del Norte Gov. Rodolfo del Rosario told the INQUIRER yesterday that the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (Ulap) voted unanimously in December to support amendments to the Charter "as soon as possible."

"We were unanimous in proposing amendments to the Constitution because this is one way of strengthening local autonomy," said Del Rosario, president of both Ulap and the League of Provinces, in a phone interview.

Ulap is the umbrella organization of 11 leagues of local officials, including those of governors, city and municipal mayors, provincial board members, city and municipal councilors, and barangay captains and councilors.

Del Rosario said Ulap, which adopts a position only if it is unanimously reached by its members, was divided on the method the amendments should be carried out—whether through a constitutional convention or a constituent assembly—and thus did not vote on the manner of change.

He said, however, that a majority was for a constituent assembly as the less costly and more appropriate method as this would only amend the Constitution. He said a constitutional convention would mean that the entire Constitution would be revised and a new one written.

"We support a constituent assembly because we feel that the idea is to amend the Constitution. We don't intend to rewrite it," he said.

Del Rosario, a former three-term congressman, urged critics to give Congress a chance to disprove suspicions its members would only be looking out for their own interests if they constituted themselves into an assembly to amend the charter.

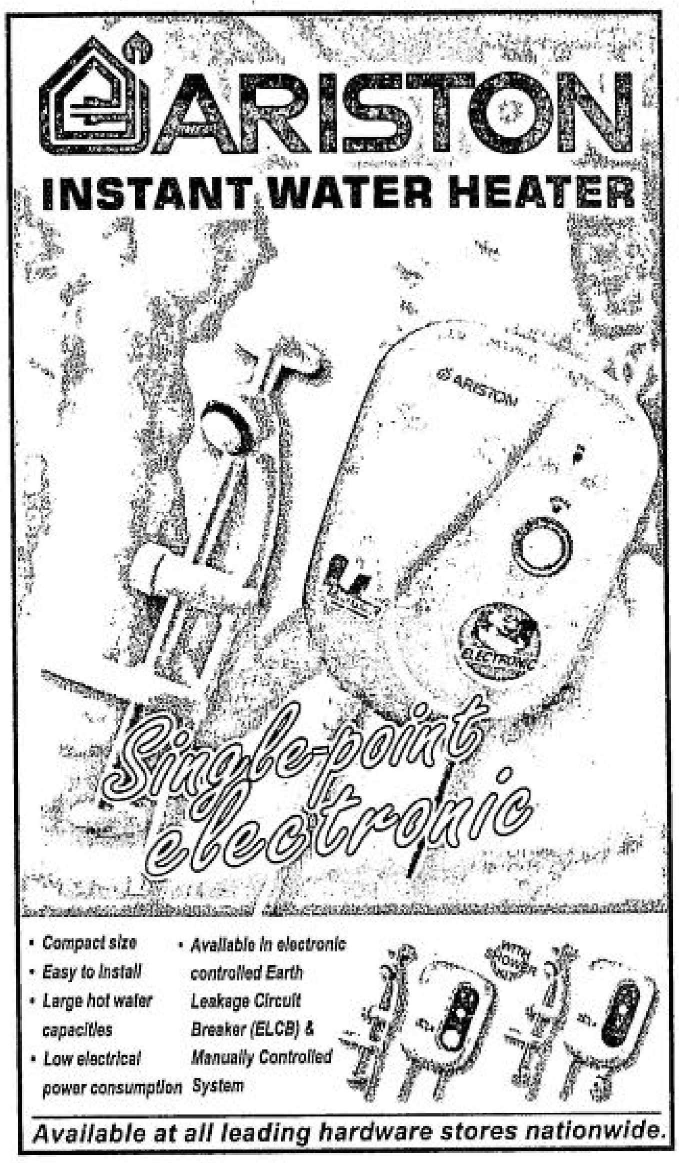
"Given the opportunity, they will show their patriotism and do their best to protect the welfare of our people. After all, if they are able to correct the flaws of our Constitution and give us a better system of government, it will be their legacy to our country," Del Rosario said.

Del Rosario said there was no need to spend P5 billion or more to elect members of a convention to amend the charter because the work could easily be done by Congress.

"After all as far as Congress is concerned, they already know what provisions should be amended such as the form of government and some economic provisions," he said.

He said Ulap was advocating Charter change because it wants to strengthen local autonomy.

Del Rosario said complete devolution and decentralization has not been achieved despite the existence of the Local Government Code.



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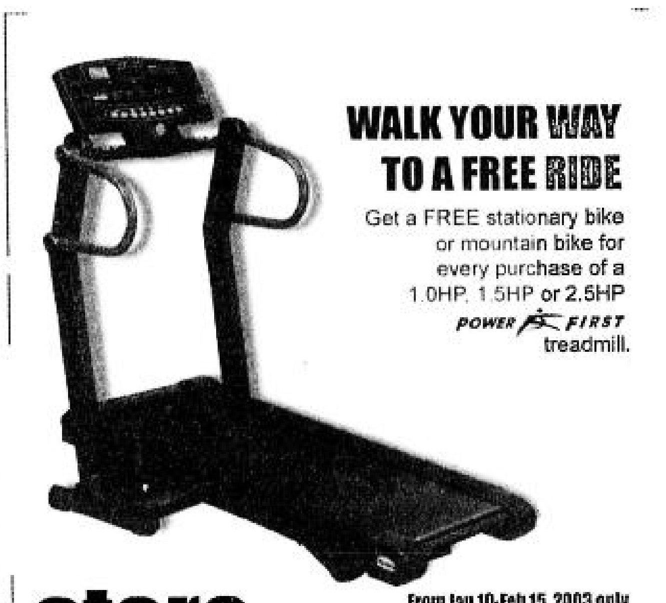

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# Napocor vows to dun Meralco for P14 B

**By Ronnel W. Domingo**

THE NATIONAL Power Corp. said it is owed some P14 billion in fines by the Manila Electric Co. for buying less than the agreed upon minimum amount of electricity from the former in 2002.

Under a 10-year supply contract, to last until 2004, Meralco is supposed to draw at least 3,600 megawatts of electricity every month from Napocor.

Napocor president Rogelio Murga said yesterday the two power firms should resolve the issue by the second quarter of this year. "Meralco has to honor the contract," he said.

On the other hand, Meralco's chief of utility economics Ivanna de la Peña said in a telephone interview that discussions on the matter were continuing.

De la Peña said the issue was being discussed in the negotiations for a transitional supply contract between Napocor and Meralco.

"There is a provision in the supply contract that provides that the amount of Meralco's purchases from Napocor could be adjusted during an economic downturn," she said.

## No liability

Meralco officials have denied that the firm was liable for any fines and that it was committed to a minimum off-take, or quantity of purchased electricity.

In a related development, the National Transmission Corp. (Transco) clarified that a recent increase in transmission charges to Meralco was due to the latter's reduced use of electricity from Napocor.

Ed Orencia, officer in charge of business planning and development for Transco, said in a statement this was because Meralco had increased its purchase of electricity from independent power producers (IPPs).

Orencia said Napocor's transmission charges would be lower if more electricity from the state power producer was used.

He said the rates for transmission-related services had been approved by the Energy Regulatory Commission and are uniformly applied to all Napocor customers.

In an earlier statement, Meralco said its purchased power adjustment (PPA) charge had gone up by 13 centavos per kilowatt hour due to increased transmission rates.

Meralco computations showed an average adjustment in transmission charges of around 80 centavos for every kilowatt hour purchased by Meralco both from Napocor and IPPs.

The utility said the increase in transmission charges cancelled out the reduction in generation charges resulting from the unbundling of Napocor's rates.

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# Lawmaker seeks pullout of stroke-causing drugs

**By Juliet Labog-Javellana**

REMULLA

CAVITE Rep. Gilbert Remulla yesterday warned the public against medicines said to contain phenylpropanolamine or PPA which he said is a substance banned under the Dangerous Drugs Act and a United Nations convention on illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs.

Remulla said the Bureau of Food and Drugs should order the immediate pullout of medicines still containing PPA because of its potential health risks.

"We don't know why drug companies continue to advertise and sell products with PPA. They should start pulling out these products from the market," Remulla said.

He said PPA is an addictive substance banned under Republic Act 9165 or the Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002 and a UN convention.

He said his office had received many studies about the risks of PPA, including a study linking PPA to incidence of hemorrhagic stroke.

He said he would ask the House committee on dangerous drugs to investigate the continued sale of over-the-counter drugs containing PPA.

Remulla released a list of 20 common over-the-counter drugs said to contain PPA.

# Palace graft buster says he can't touch dead or resigned execs

**By Carlito Pablo**

"NO one is above the law, except when they're dead or already out of government."

Dario Rama, chair of the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission, yesterday thus defended the PAGC's exclusion of three former transportation secretaries from graft charges in connection with the build-operate-transfer contract over Terminal 3 of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

Rama was reacting to a criticism by Sen. Joker Arroyo that the PAGC was selective in initiating an administrative case against only six officials, including Transportation Undersecretary Wilfredo Trinidad and Edgardo Manda, general manager of the Manila International Airport Authority.

## Exempted

Arroyo noted that the PAGC exempted from the case former transportation chiefs Arturo Enrile, Vicente Rivera and Pantaleon Alvarez.

"But Secretary Enrile is already dead," Rama said. "Rivera resigned when the Estrada administration ended and Alvarez has also resigned as transportation secretary of the Macapagal administration."

Rama explained that under Executive Order No. 12, the PAGC's jurisdiction covers only presidential appointees active in government.

Such jurisdiction continues to apply to resigned officials who have been previously charged before they stepped out of government, Rama added.

"We no longer have jurisdiction therefore over the late Enrile and already resigned Rivera and Alvarez," Rama said.

## Disclosure

Rama also defended the PAGC from Arroyo's criticism that the commission is not supposed to disclose cases.

"EO No. 12 prohibit only disclosures that deprive individuals of a fair trial," Rama said. "The same order provides only that all disclosures should be balanced, fair and accurate."

In a press briefing, Presidential Spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said that President Macapagal even wants to strengthen the PAGC to help her in her anti-corruption drive.

Reacting to Arroyo's comments against the PAGC, Bunye said that Rama is "very well aware of the procedures."

"I don't think there is a need to remind him," Bunye said. "But we do agree that these investigations have to be handled very carefully."

## Third Supplement

In a charge sheet dated Jan. 21, the PAGC noted that Trinidad and Manda signed a third supplement to the Terminal 3 contract, which Malacañang itself had found to be null and void.

Manda is a close associate of President Macapagal, having been one of her aides when she was still the Vice President.

Manda was also former president of the Lualhati Foundation Inc., a charitable group identified with Ms Macapagal that once received an P8 million donation from Manila Rep. Mark Jimenez.

Manda has denied having committed any irregularities in signing the third supplement to the Terminal 3 contract.

### PIATCO CONTRACT

# DOJ clarifies stand on talks; guarantees voided deal, SC told

JUSTICE Undersecretary Dondee Teehankee has clarified that the government's willingness to meet with representatives of the Philippine International Air Terminals Co. in a non-binding' meeting is premised on the presumption that the Piatco contracts were null and void.

The representative of seven airport service providers, meanwhile, told the Supreme Court the government guarantees provided for in the amended contracts were prohibited by law and therefore made the concession agreement invalid.

Teehankee made the clarification amid newspaper reports that quoted him as saying the government was now ready to heed the suggestion of the Supreme Court to sit down with Piatco for mediation or arbitration.

The government has taken the position at the Supreme Court that all Piatco contracts with the government to build and operate Terminal 3 of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport were null and void.

"I am willing to meet with Piatco in non-binding' talks in keeping with the Supreme Court urging to settle the matter among ourselves. This meeting however must be premised on Piatco accepting government's position that all Piatco contracts are null and void," Teehankee clarified.

"If Piatco cannot accept this premise, we will just talk after the Supreme Court has passed judgment so our parameters are clear," Teehankee concluded.

The Supreme Court is expected to rule on the validity of the Piatco contracts soon. Government lawyers are optimistic that the Supreme Court ruling will uphold the position taken.

In a memorandum submitted to the Supreme Court last week, the lawyer of seven companies providing service at the airport said the government's decision to pay Piatco's debts in case of a loan default was, "by whatever name, a prohibited direct government guarantee."

The seven airport service providers accused Piatco of using the terms "termination pay" and "attendant liabilities" to hide the fact that what it had secured was a "direct government guarantee" prohibited under the build-operate-transfer law.

As an "unsolicited proposal," Francis Lim, lead counsel of the airport service providers, stressed, Piatco's project is not entitled to a "direct guarantee" from the government.

The parties to the case are Miascor Groundhandling Corp., DNATA-Wings Aviation Systems Corp., Macroasia-Eurest Catering Services Inc., Macroasia-Menzies Airport Services Corp., Miascor Catering Services Corp., Miascor Aircraft Maintenance Corp., and Miascor Logistics Corp.

The Naia Terminal 3 project was an unsolicited proposal submitted to the Ramos administration by six of the country's wealthiest businessmen in 1994.

Piatco, however, won the contract after submitting its own proposal. The contract has since been amended several times.

President Macapagal-Arroyo declared the contracts null and void since it had deviated from the original stipulation.

The issue is now pending at the Supreme Court.

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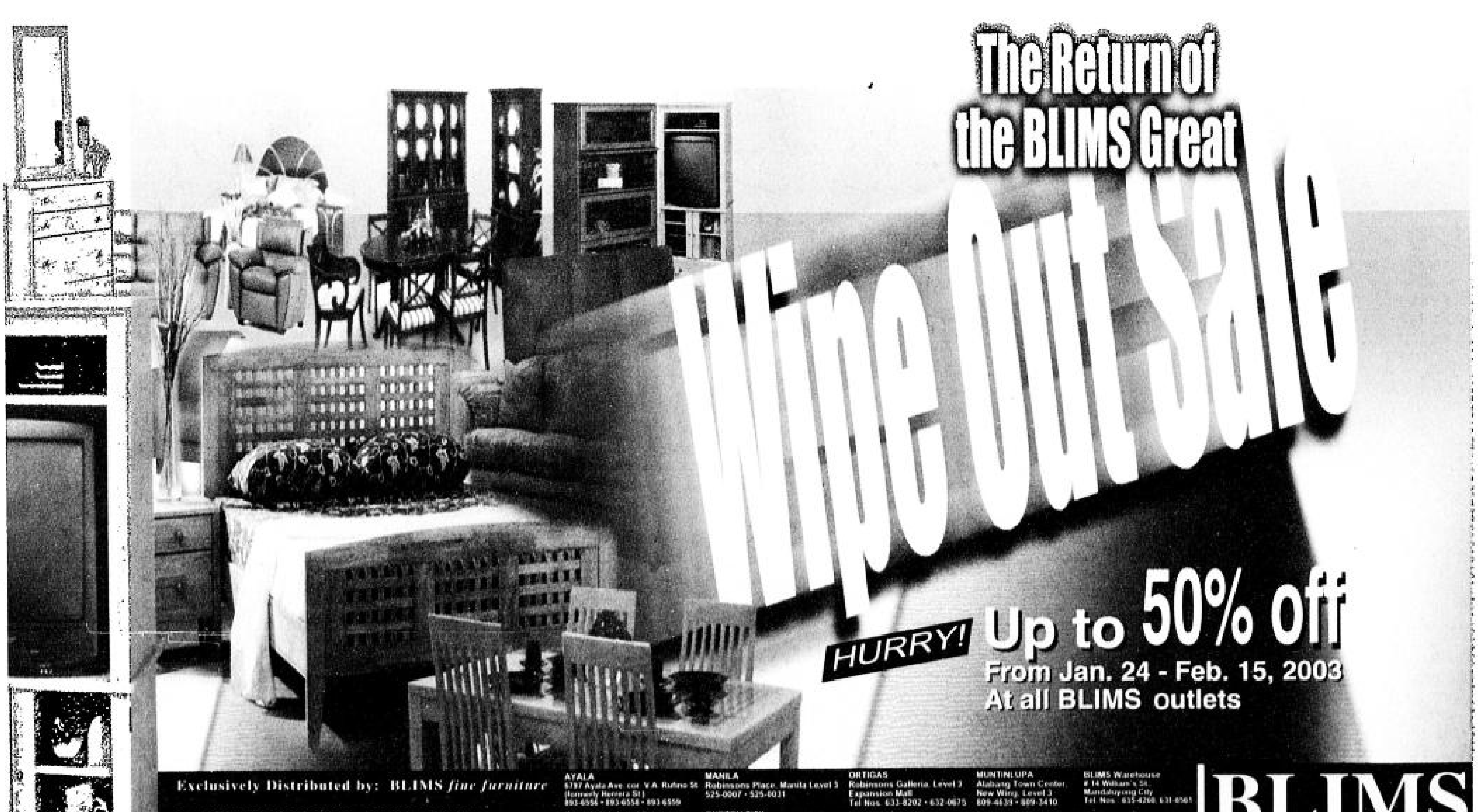

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## POLL MODERNIZATION

# Comelec OKs purchase of counting machines

**By Blanche S. Rivera**

THE COMMISSION on Elections yesterday approved a resolution for the acquisition of some 2,700 counting machines, paving the way for the country's P2.5-billion automation program.

Comelec chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. said that all the commissioners signed the resolution during the en banc meeting late yesterday afternoon.

The en banc set the bidding next month. The invitation to bid would be published on Monday.

"This is an important step and signifies a new beginning in the relationship between the National Movement for Free Elections and the Comelec," Namfrel chair Jose Concepcion Jr. said.

"Maybe later on we'll have differences, but we will work it out," he added.

The issuance of the resolution fell on the same day a new watchdog group was formed to ensure that the Comelec's modernization program is implemented "properly, on time and within budget."

The Hi-Tech Boto Movement, led by the Namfrel, is an alliance of multisectoral groups which began gathering signatures and volunteers in support of President Macapagal-Arroyo's call to modernize the 2004 elections.

Namfrel secretary general Guillermo Luz said the new movement was born after the President pledged P2.5 billion this year to automate the counting and canvassing of ballots.

The Comelec had been pushing for expensive and seemingly unnecessary modernization projects, but the law—Republic Act 8436—mandates only automation of the counting process.

The Hi-tech Boto movement was launched at Club Filipino in San Juan yesterday.

Among the members of the new movement are the Concerned Women of the Philippines, Adhikain at Kilusan ng Ordinaryong Tao party-list group, Urban Reform Alliance, the Makati Business Club, Katipunan ng mga Brodkaster ng Pilipinas, National Youth Commission, Kompil, Bishops-Businessmen's Conference of the Philippines, Couples for Christ and a representative from the Department of Education.

According to a timeline for automation approved by the Comelec and Namfrel, the bidding for the counting machines should be held next month and the awarding of the bids should be done in March.

Delivery of the counting machines could be staggered between May and December, simultaneously with the training of the personnel to man them, according to Namfrel executive director Telibert Laoc.

Abalos Sr. has asked President Macapagal for P1.9 billion more for the validation of the voters' registration list and for the electronic transmission of election returns.

Abalos said automation would not be effective if the election results still had to be hand-carried to the Comelec from the polling centers.

The Comelec wants P900 million for the electronic transmission of election results and another P1 billion for the nationwide validation of the voters' registration list.

Laoc, however, said Abalos' request was not necessary and had no legal basis. Namfrel said it suspects the validation process is just another name for the Voters Registration and Identification System, shelved for being too expensive.

# RP gets $50-M land reform loan

THE WORLD Bank said yesterday it had approved a loan of $50 million to the Philippines for a project to support the government's land reform program.

The loan will help some 70,000 rural households which have already benefited from land reform and which have been organized into 80 agrarian reform communities in six provinces throughout the archipelago, a World Bank statement said.

These agrarian reform communities will get direct investment in infrastructure, such as irrigation facilities to increase their productivity and improve their access to markets so they can enjoy higher earnings.

They will also get drying and marketing facilities for their crops and more potable water to reduce the incidence of disease, the World Bank said.

The loan will also provide for direct investment in tree crops so the farmers can enjoy long-term income.

Additionally, they will receive help in land titling, rural finance and training in agricultural and enterprise development, the bank added. *AFP*

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# OPINION

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## The best man

**EDITORIAL**

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo would not confirm it, but she did not deny it either. So it's almost certain that Lt. Gen. Narciso Abaya will be the next chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

The President let the public into her choice of the next military chief in a speech in Mamasapano, Maguindanao, Tuesday by introducing Abaya as the commanding general of the Southern Command and "the incoming chief of staff." That night in Davao City, she told reporters who asked for clarification that she was "not saying it, (but) I don't deny it." The next day, Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes said Abaya was being groomed for the top military post, although he could not say when the latter was taking over from the incumbent, Gen. Dionisio Santiago.

Unless his tour is extended, Santiago will retire on April 8 when he reaches the mandatory retirement age of 56. If Abaya takes over on the same day, he will have the opportunity to serve as chief of staff for the remainder of Ms Macapagal's term—and possibly even longer. He doesn't have to retire until Oct. 19, 2004. That will make him the longest-serving chief of staff during the Macapagal presidency.

The past two years of her term has already seen four different chiefs of staff. No one has served longer than 10 months, with Gen. Benjamin Defensor holding the post for only 79 days. If Santiago is retired in April, he will have served for only four months and 10 days.

This revolving-door policy has not helped build stability in the AFP and continuity in its programs, much less contributed to the effectiveness of the military leadership in carrying out its vision, like the modernization of the AFP. Some critics have pointed out that the brevity of the tenure of Ms Macapagal's appointees gave them only enough time to say hello to their counterparts in the Association of Southeast Asian Nation and then say goodbye.

Ms Macapagal has sought to justify this policy by saying that "the length of command is not the most relevant trait of good military leadership." But has there ever been any organization, public or private, that became stronger, more stable, more dynamic and more efficient with frequent changes in leadership?

Reyes has also tried to defend this policy by saying that the military was stable enough to allow different chiefs of staff to have short terms. Last November during the ceremony marking the AFP change of command from Defensor to Santiago, Reyes said anyone among the senior generals can "walk into this job and assume this position."

While that statement might have been flattering to the top brass, it actually demeaned the chief of staff and trivialized his position. Surely Reyes, who was himself once AFP chief of staff, must be among the first to know that leading our men of arms is not as simple as driving a car. But while the administration kept changing the chief of staff, the position was beginning to look more and more like a sinecure, a part of the political spoils that must be shared by as many as possible among the military officers who had helped install Ms Macapagal in Malacañang.

Abaya's impending appointment presents an opportunity for the President to change all that. Obviously she is impressed by Abaya's credentials and his record. Military commanders have also been quoted as saying he is "the best man for the job."

If he is—and he must be so, if the President is going to pick him to succeed Santiago—then Abaya should be allowed to serve for the rest of her term or even longer. If, like Ms Macapagal's earlier choices, he is good enough to lead the military for three months or 10, he should be good to serve for a year or even longer.

## Saying no to war

**FOREIGN COMMENT**

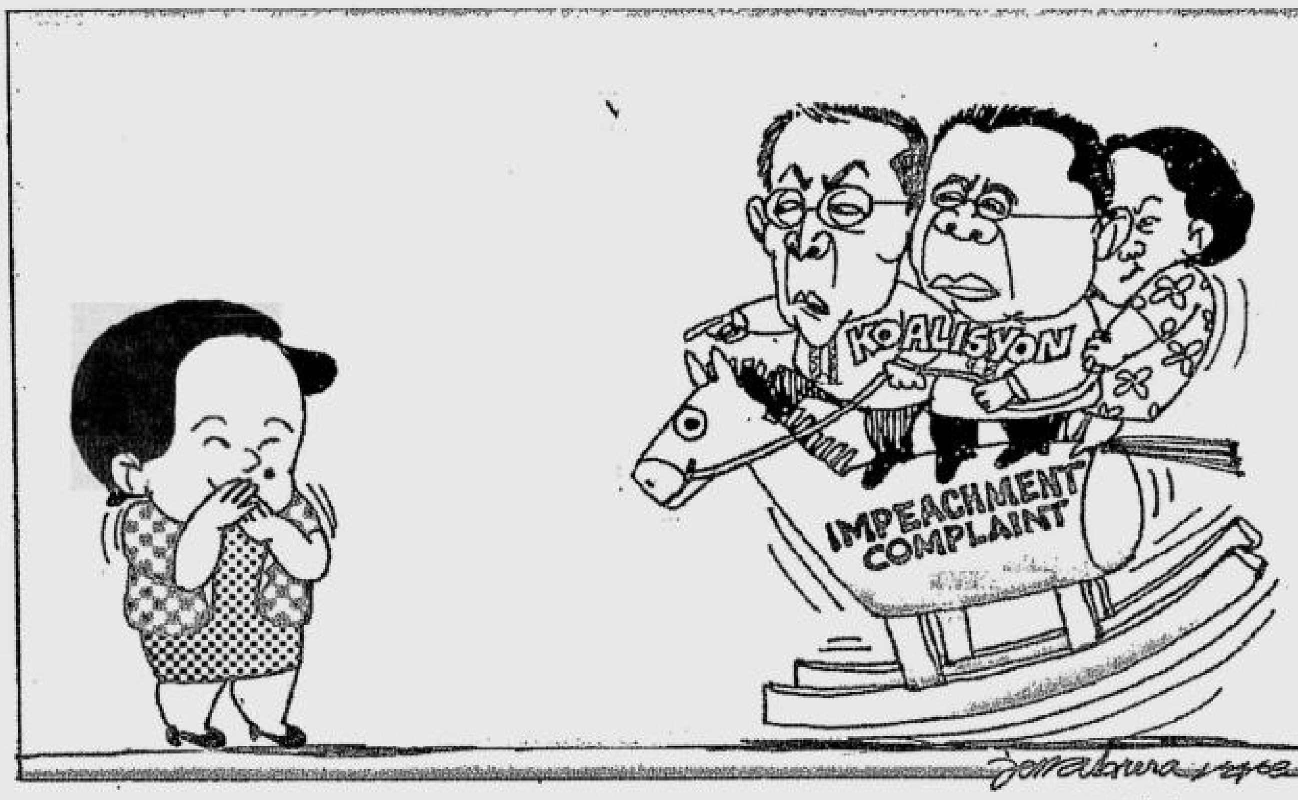
EUROPEANS are saying no. No to a war against Iraq, as things stand now. Neither Tony Blair nor Jacques Chirac—whose armed forces would likely participate in an operation—can flout the polls taken day after day. Nearly 60 percent of Britons and more than 70 percent of French people say war against Iraq would not be justified—with or without a green light from the UN.

Europe is not convinced of Saddam Hussein's dangerousness. It is up to (Bush) to establish the existence and the dangerousness of Iraq's arsenal before making a decision as drastic as war.

If the proof is indeed crystal clear, as Mr. Bush and Mr. Blair say, why hasn't it already been produced?

If Washington finds it possible to "contain" Pyongyang with diplomacy, isn't it conceivable to do the same with Baghdad? If the United States stigmatizes—quite rightly—a regime as cruel as Saddam Hussein's, why do they treat the criminal tyranny of Kim Jong-il with kid gloves?

*Le Monde (Paris)*



## Remove cap on income tax; scrap VAT

**AS I SEE IT**

*Neal H. Cruz*

I THINK the government is being unfair and unjust not only to the professionals but also to the common *tao* in passing the law imposing a 10 percent value-added tax (VAT) on professionals. This is in addition to their income tax and the fees they pay to the Professional Regulation Commission for licenses.

I can understand the position that the Bureau of Internal Revenue is in. The government is pressed for cash. Collections are going down while expenses keep going up. They looked at their figures and said: "Hey, fixed income earners paid P66.3 billion in income tax but the professionals who earned much, much more paid only P620 million. They are not paying the correct taxes. Lets hit them with a 10 percent VAT."

When we see the movie and basketball superstars earning many millions of pesos, that observation seems justified. They should pay more.

But the reason they're not paying more in income taxes is that there is a cap of 30 percent on the income tax. And that cap was put there because of the lobby by the rich businessmen. So no matter how many millions a superstar makes, he pays only a maximum of 30 percent on his income. In the United States, the rich share as much as 75 percent of their income with the government. If the 30 percent cap is removed, perhaps the professionals will pay more, depending on their income.

Another injustice is that not all professionals earn millions like the movie and basketball superstars. Perhaps only 10 percent of show-biz personalities are superstars. Ninety percent is composed of the crew and assorted workers who earn peanuts. The same goes with basketball; only a few of the players have million-peso paychecks and the same is true with doctors, lawyers, engineers, architects, accountants, etc. Not all of them can charge mega-fees; a great many of them live a hand-to-mouth existence.

Hitting them all with a uniform 10 percent value-added tax is therefore unjust. It goes against the principle of taxation which is that those who earn more should pay more. But the VAT hits the poor as well as the rich. In fact, it is the poor consumer who ultimately has to pay the VAT as businessmen merely add it to the price of their product.

For a pill that a sick squatter has to buy, for example, he has to pay perhaps a 60 percent VAT for it because a 10 percent VAT is added every time it changes hands. The importer of the raw material adds a 10 percent VAT besides his profit, the manufacturer adds another 10 percent, the wholesaler another 10 percent, the dealer another 10 percent, and the retailer another 10 percent. Plus of course their profits. By the time it reaches the poor squatter, it is many times more expensive than the cost of the ingredients that compose it.

In fact, this is what the BIR tells the doctors to placate them. "Add the VAT to your professional fee. It is your patient, not you, who will pay for it." So you see, it is the poor patient, already sick, who can barely afford the doctor's fee and the expensive medicines he has to take (expensive because of VAT and other taxes) who has to be saddled with another tax.

And in the second place, there is no value added to the service of the doctor. The practice of medicine is not a business; it is humanitarian service. You can choose to buy or not to buy a product from a store if you don't like the price. But if you are sick, you have no choice but to seek the services of a doctor. So why does the government have to hit you with an additional tax if you seek help? The government should help sick people, not squeeze them.

To be fair, a tax should have a bigger bite on people who earn more. The VAT hits them the opposite way; it is reggressive.

The income tax should be the fair tax. You earn more, you pay more. That should be the case, *'di ba*? But in the Philippines, the amount of income tax you pay depends on how smart your accountant is. Those with the smartest accountants pay the least; those who don't have them, pay the most. Because our tax laws have so many loopholes that a clever accountant or taxpayer can easily save a big chunk of the tax that should go to the government. That is why the biggest taxpayers are the fixed income earners because the tax is already withheld from them by their employers even before the workers get their salaries. They cannot escape the tax bite.

The BIR, by the way, does not collect a big chunk of the income taxes by itself. It makes the employers, the banks and now the professionals its tax collectors without pay. They collect from the taxpayers and turn over the collections to the BIR.

Instead of collecting taxes, some of the BIR people, on the other hand, steal the taxes already collected. Hundreds of millions of pesos have been lost to a syndicate in the BIR who deposited collected taxes in its private account and later withdrew them. Only one of them has been convicted and imprisoned; the rest are probably abroad enjoying their stolen wealth. And who knows how many more such syndicates are still undiscovered. The government does not even know how much in taxes have been paid every month.

Billions more in taxes already paid have been refunded to influential taxpayers. That's why Rep. Aniceto Saludo filed graft cases against former BIR Commissioner Rene Bañez and Budget Secretary Benjamin Diokno. They refunded billions of pesos in documentary stamp taxes paid in the sale of Fort Bonifacio.

In the tax refund scam, billions of pesos were refunded to ghost exporters who never paid their taxes. Until now, not one of the members of the syndicate has been convicted.

Government revenues are also falling because of the government's liberal policies of cutting duties on imported goods to the detriment of our heavily taxed local industries. The Bureau of Customs lost in 2001 $3 billion from its 1996 level because of liberalization. The government has waived P236 billion in potential revenues because of incentives to foreign investors.

Then they impose more taxes on us.

## Ambassador of goodwill

**THERE'S THE RUB**

*Conrado de Quiros*

"HE makes me proud to be an Asian again," says a friend of mine.

The he there is Yao Ming, the Chinese basketball player who's proving to be taller than his 7'6" height. To say that he is the newest sensation of the NBA is to say that George Bush is not the wisest of leaders. He has been the talk of the town since he landed in American shores three months ago and was seized eagerly not by American Immigration but by the American basketball league. He was the No. 1 pick of the NBA draft, the lucky, and now very proud, winners being the Houston Rockets. He has managed to win over critics and fans alike in the blink of an eye, and zoomed from unknown and inscrutable Chinese to a famous and very scrutable American cultural icon.

They've even made a ditty about him, which they chant in Houston when the Rockets come out to play.

Part of Yao's meteoric rise to fame owes to his formidable basketball skills. He is one of the best passers in the NBA. Certainly, he has no peer in that respect among the centers there. If you've watched some of the ads in Solar Sports, you would probably have caught him making dazzling no-look passes to teammates, particularly to guard Steve Francis, with whom he teams up like a hand in glove. He has surprising agility for a 7'6" player, showing a variety of moves that have left even jaded scouts with mouth agape. He's the only player his size who can dribble the ball well. Hell, he's the only player his size, as one NBA reporter exclaimed, who can play the game. And he's still learning.

They're still talking in San Antonio of the way he posterized Tim Duncan with a dunk. That is something he is still learning, dunking, though he's shown a talent for it. He rarely dunked when he played in China for the Shanghai Sharks. And when he did, it was never with the authority or in-your-face brashness with which NBA players do it. He explained it in an interview with NBA reporters thus: In China it is not considered good manners to show up your opponent. Yao continues to show good manners, but not dunking ferociously is no longer one of them.

He held his own brilliantly in the Lakers-Rockets game last weekend, a game much hyped for his first-ever meeting with Shaquille O'Neal. So the consensus went among American sportswriters afterward. Sure Shaq posterized him with a couple of monster dunks toward the end of the game. Sure Shaq had the bigger stats and showed he was still an irresistible force that hadn't yet found an immovable object. But as Marty Burns pointed out, Yao set the tenor for the Rockets by blocking Shaq not once but three times at the outset, by tying up Shaq enough to free Francis for his shots, and by giving Shaq the slip in the dying seconds and making the dunk that sealed the game. If Yao's performance there was any indication, Burns said, we were looking at the future of the NBA.

But it was a comment of one of that game's announcers that said it best for me. Let's put this thing in perspective, he said. We're not just looking at someone who's been in the league for only three months, we're looking at someone who's been in America for only three months. And who can barely speak English. To be battling Shaq toe to toe, apart from battling language and culture head to head, it was something else.

But it's not just Yao's exceptional basketball skills that have catapulted him to dizzying heights, if not indeed to the American heart itself. It is also his exceptional character. Yao is only 22 years old, yet he has a shown a maturity, even sagacity, well beyond his years. Yao in fact has done more for improving US-China relations than any Chinese public official, diplomatic or otherwise. No one, as American observers now say, has carried as much responsibility for his behavior on his shoulders as Michael Jordan.

His meeting with Shaq was hyped up not just because it was a titanic struggle between present and future, it was so also because of something Shaq had said earlier, which smacked of racism. "Tell Yao," he said, "Ching-chong, yang, wah-ah-so." He later tried to pass it off as just kidding around, and complained that people were trying to turn Black against Asian. I myself remembered that a white golf player used that same excuse years ago for something he said after Tiger Woods first won the Masters. He said Woods, who had put on his green jacket to receive his award, might be disappointed to find the club didn't serve chicken dinners. The fellow lost his endorsements after that, and disappeared from sight. Shaq has not done so, and is unlikely to do so. But his remarks did not sit well with most Americans. Certainly, they did not with the press.

Yao himself took it all in stride, saying that was the way the world went. And he had only the best things to say about Shaq: Shaq was the hero he had set out to emulate. Sportswriters would say later that Shaq was a 31-year-old married man and Yao was a single 22-year-old, but Shaq had more to learn from Yao rather than the other way around. Shaq may have won the battle of centers in the Lakers-Rockets game, but Yao has won the war.

Yao in fact is revolutionizing the NBA in more ways than that he is proving that a 7'6" can play the game. He is revolutionizing the NBA by proving that decency and humility have a place in it. Indeed, he is revolutionizing a whole culture by proving that it can always cut down on the trash talk and ante up on the niceness. They've started calling him "Master" over there. For good reason. When he retired from the Chinese league last year, he thanked the fans in a newspaper [illegible] does a single blade of grass [illegible] the sum[illegible]

What can I say? Ah, grasshopper, but Yao makes me proud to be an Asian too.

* * *

*Comments to dequiros@vasia.com*

# A growing European axis forms?

**ANALYSIS**

*Amando Doronila*

THEY used the 40th anniversary of the Elysée Treaty, which sealed the reconciliation of the two leading powers of Western Europe after World War II, to raise a united front against a precipitate US-led war on Iraq.

In a joint meeting of the French and German parliaments in the historic Versailles Palace outside Paris, French President Jacques Chirac, speaking like a reincarnation of Gen. Charles de Gaulle, said: "France and Germany share the same judgment on the Iraqi crisis....Every decision should be taken at the UN Security Council, and only there, and then only having pronounced on the report of the (United Nations) weapons inspectors" now combing Iraq in search of evidence on Iraq's possession of facilities for weapons of mass destruction.

Although both Chirac and German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder want more time for the UN inspectors to complete their task and a second vote in the Security Council authorizing military action, Chirac did not go as far as supporting Germany's opposition to war. In insisting against war, Schroeder widened Germany's cleavage with the United States, which opened during last November's German elections, when Schroeder stated that Berlin would not commit troops to a US-led attack on Iraq.

Their declarations followed the report of the head of the UN inspection team, Hans Blix, who has sought more time for further inspection beyond the Jan. 27 deadline. Although Blix has taken Iraq to task for not giving the team "pro-active" cooperation, he also said the inspectors have not found the "smoking gun," which would be considered a breach of the UN resolution ordering Saddam Hussein to dismantle his weapons arsenal.

The US government, however, considers the discovery by the UN inspectors of 11 empty chemical warheads as "serious and troubling," and has caused Washington to intensify diplomatic pressure to win wider support for early military action.

The Franco-German joint stand on Iraq sharpened the deepening trans-Atlantic division over Iraq, leaving only Britain as its ally in an early military attack. It has forced the United States to consider an attack even without a new UN mandate and with a narrowly based "alliance of the willing" composed of Britain and some of the Arab states.

But the Franco-German axis is a formidable barrier to overcome. It is the rallying point of Russia and China, both of which support further time for the inspection in Iraq. With France holding veto power as a permanent member of the Security Council and Germany taking over the presidency of the council in the next two months, their weight can slow the steamroller charge of the United States to war.

The Versailles summit of two nations, which until 1945 had been at war for 70 years (the Franco-Prussian War in 1871 and two World Wars), symbolized how far the concept of reconciliation has advanced since the 1963 Elysée Treaty in which France and Germany vowed never to go to war again. The treaty was signed at the Elysée presidential palace in Paris by French President Charles de Gaulle and German Chancellor Konrad Adenauer. It served as the foundation not only for peace but also for the economic and political reconstruction of Europe, within the framework of democracy. And it was the engine that generated the impulses for the enlargement of European economic and political cooperation, leading to the formation of the European Union and, in monetary terms, the common currency euro.

Although there are tensions between France and Germany over their respective political and economic roles in European integration, of which they are the centerpiece states, they have papered over their differences and found a common front on transnational issues including Iraq. Only, recently, Paris and Berlin agreed to pave the way for power-sharing in the European Union, through the election of two presidents—one for the European Commission elected by the European Parliament and the European Council president chosen by member states. Germany supports the commission presidency, reflecting its federalist system, while France opts for a powerful Council president, molded in the image of its strong presidency and a highly centralized state.

The Versailles summit was resonant with echoes of history. The drama underlined the fact that after France was defeated in the Franco-Prussian war, Kaiser Wilhelm I was crowned as emperor of the united German fatherland at the Versailles Hall of Mirrors. The French got their revenge in 1919, when after Germany's defeat in World War I, the Treaty of Versailles was signed imposing harsh and humiliating terms on Germany. Some historians say that the treaty planted the seeds of World War II .

The historic reconciliation was dramatized by the wines served at the joint meeting of the French and German parliaments. White wine from Germany—famous for its whites from the vineyards along the Rhine—was served. The reds came from France, probably from Bordeaux.

The reconciliation has served as a motor for the enlargement of the European Union from the present 15 to 25 in 2004, to include mostly Central European states formerly part of the Soviet satellite system, thereby cementing the reunification of Eastern and Western Europe. The transfer of the German capital from Bonn to Berlin, after reunification, accents the shift of the center of gravity of German power to Central Europe.

It is significant that although France and Germany are now engaged in a quiet rivalry over leadership of an enlarged Europe, it should be disturbing to the United States that it can no longer, even as the sole superpower, impose its political will on the Europeans and make unilateral decisions on war and peace. France, through the growing Franco-German axis, is reasserting its foreign policy dominance over European affairs and its role as the "bête noir" of the United States. Chirac's adroit diplomatic initiatives reincarnate De Gaulle's vision of an independent France, backed by a strong economy, nuclear weapons and a coherent foreign policy.

# A quiet, magical movie

**AT LARGE**

*Rina Jimenez-David*

WHEN I heard that the movie "Magnifico" is about a boy named after a magician, I was initially repelled, wondering what possible good could come from a movie about a boy magician. Well, Magnifico the boy in the movie is indeed a magician, but the magic he wields lies in his heart, and in the seemingly boundless well of optimism and hope that resides within.

He is born to a poor family in a small town in Laguna, the middle child of the couple Edna (Lorna Tolentino) and Gerry (Albert Martinez). They are hardworking and industrious: she takes in embroidery piece work while looking after their home and Gerry's mother Magda (Gloria Romero), while he takes on odd jobs in construction and barong-making. Their eldest child Miong (Danilo Barrios) is bright and is studying in Manila where he holds a scholarship. The youngest, Helen (Isabella de Leon) was born with cerebral palsy, isolated in her own world, being unable to talk. Magnifico, or Ikoy (Jiro Manio), is kindhearted and friendly, but he isn't doing all that well in school.

Yet despite their industry and their decency, Gerry and Edna must confront a series of heartbreaking mishaps. First, Magda suffers an accident and is found to be afflicted with diabetes and liver cancer. Then Miong comes home with the bad news that he, the family's hope to lift them from their lot, has lost his scholarship. In an outburst of frustration, Gerry exclaims to his mother: "What kind of children have I been saddled with? One is sick, the other is stupid, while my eldest may be bright but is of no help to us!"

* * *

**BASED on the script by Mitchiko Yamamoto, which won first prize in the Film Development Foundation Scriptwriting Contest of 2000, "Magnifico" is a film about how hope, as exemplified by a young boy, soars above adversity. It is also about how a child, no matter how young and innocent, can change the lives of everyone around him.**

**Ikoy is the kind of boy whose first instinct, when confronted with a seemingly insurmountable problem, is to look for a solution. It's not in his nature to mope or despair, and he has the gift, as well, of discerning in other people even a little bit of good, even if they themselves may not recognize it or try their best to conceal it.**

**But "Magnifico" the movie is no "Pollyana" or "Marcelino Pan y Vino," the staple of Catholic school movie showings. While pure of heart and noble of intentions, Ikoy is also wily and clever, naughty and resourceful. And his parents and lola are shown to be weak and frail, too, dealing with their own selfishness and vanity, and often failing to rise above their circumstances.**

**Director Maryo J. delos Reyes says "Magnifico" was a "dream project," a "labor of love" not just for him but for everyone connected with the film.**

**They had hoped to enter the movie into the Metro Manila Film Festival, but, failing that, they decided to time its release with the Fourth World Meeting of Families, believing that the movie has so much to say about families and how they cope with the challenges they face today.**

* * *

"MAGNIFICO" the film project is thus also about hope, the triumph of a producer's and a director's faith in a story and script that moved and touched them, and their belief that the fickle Filipino film audience would recognize quality when it was offered to them.

"We were so lucky to find a producer who was willing to gamble on this movie," remarks De los Reyes, referring to Violet Sevilla of Violett Films.

It was quite a gamble, considering how "Magnifico" contains none of the "essentials" of formulaic filmmaking: superstars, melodrama, pithy quotable lines, sex and nudity, crass humor and blockbuster production values. Instead, "Magnifico" is a quiet little film, slow and meandering, filled in the beginning with humorous vignettes of Philippine small town life, but building up to a dramatic and truly heartbreaking climax.

A word of caution to moviegoers: Bring a large hanky or a box of tissues with you, if you want to leave the movie house without embarrassing yourself.

* * *

**"DIREK" Maryo says that after reading the script, he was so moved by the story that he believed it would be one of his best films. And it is. It might well be his best.**

**He gathers a cast of respected and recognized actors, all of whom, despite their stature in the industry, imbue even their minor characters with moving authenticity. There's not a single false note among the actors, not even Jiro Manio, who was quite annoying in "Bagong Buwan," but is sterling in "Magnifico." When Ikoy overhears his father despairing about them, his children, his face registers hurt and resentment that shimmer through his features so briefly one barely catches the nuances of these feelings. The scene struck a chord, for as a parent I wondered how many times I had uttered words in anger or frustration that I did not mean but would scar my children for life.**

**While everyone is outstanding in the movie, I must single out Mark Gil, who as Mang Domeng, the bachelor bus driver who cannot get past the inertia of his grief over his mother's death, creates a character with subtle depth; Isabella de Leon, who displays not only authenticity in her portrayal of her disabled character, but also gives her a touching dignity; Celia Rodriguez as the cantankerous Ka Doring, a pleasant surprise in her refusal to turn into caricature; and Lorna T., Albert and the eternal Gloria Romero who provide "Magnifico" both heart and strength.**

**Would that we all support this movie with lots of heart and the strength of its quiet and hopeful honesty.**

# Feminist historians and 'her-story'

**LOOKING BACK**

*Ambeth R. Ocampo*

WHEN nationalist historians like Teodoro Agoncillo and William Henry Scott were trying to coax the Filipino voice out of historical sources written by biased foreigners, they did not realize what the future would bring. Feminist historians today not only write from a Filipino point of view, but try to find women in a history that has been written by men. Much archival material remains to be used if only to stress "her-story" against "his-story."

Archival records on divorce, abortion and prostitution alone contain narratives of women who often remain hidden in history. My interest in cases of parental objection to marriage in the 19th-century Philippines is focused on a sub-group that concerns underaged women who want to marry against the wishes of their parents. These women had recourse to government officials and many governors-general were said to have shown a marked paternal protection over them, often overruling parental objection to authorize a marriage based on love and passion.

Gregoria de Jesus was taken from their home in Caloocan and imprisoned in a house in Binondo to separate her from Andres Bonifacio. We do not have all the documents on the case, but we have enough to see a new angle in a familiar love story. Oryang must have been a strong-willed woman because she managed to scribble a letter to the gobernadorcillo of Binondo and applied for his protection and intervention so that she, although a minor, could marry Andres without parental consent. The letter translated from the original Filipino reads:

"I am Gregoria de Jesus from Caloocan, *dalagang* Tagalog, *menor de edad*. I wish to contract marriage with my boyfriend (*nobio*) Andres Bonifacio, a resident of 11E Sagunto Street, Tondo. When my parents found out of my good intentions I was brought here, to Binondo, and placed in 28D Madrid Street. I am truly a prisoner here. I have no liberty at all. I appeal to your power to mediate and give me justice. Take me from here, summon my boyfriend, fulfill the necessary government requirements so that we can get married. I ask justice from you and hope that you listen because this appeal is addressed to anyone with a kind heart."

From the documents we see that the gobernadorcillo of Binondo instructed a certain Cornelio Gomez, the owner of the house on Madrid Street, to appear in his office with Oryang. When he did not comply, the house on Madrid Street was raided on Dec. 7, 1893 but Oryang had already been moved back to Caloocan. The authorities did not give up and on Dec. 9, 1893 the gobernadorcillo of Caloocan issued an order to locate Oryang and present her to the gobernadorcillo of Binondo. Oryang was found in her parents' home in Caloocan but she was unable to appear before the gobernadorcillo of Caloocan. She was said to be ill so a physician was sent to check on her and make sure she was not being held against her will. Dr. Jose Hilario, on Dec. 14, certified that Oryang could not be moved from bed. She was described as anemic (*un estado cloroanemico*) and prone to attacks of hysteria (*ataques histeriformes*). This was validated by a letter she wrote on Jan. 8, 1894:

"I am Gregoria de Jesus who was summoned by the Civil Government because of the appeal sent to the Tribunal de Naturales of Binondo. I was not able to appear there because I fell sick. Now that I am well and strong enough, I ask that I be summoned. Please be firm as my parents want to remove me from here. I hope that you will listen to my appeal."

The paper trail ends there, but it led me to marriage records in Binondo. On my first inquiry I was informed that much of their archival records were destroyed during the Battle for Manila in 1945. Then, help came from assistant parish priest Msgr. Moises Andrade who located the marriage register for 1894. While Father Andrade did not find any records for Andres Bonifacio or Gregoria de Jesus, he told me I could check for myself. At first pass I found nothing, but on second look in Book I (1894-1899), P. 46, line 178 was an entry that interested me. A certain Andres Cipriano and Gregoria de la Cruz were married on June 20, 1894. The witnesses were Espiridion Baniquit and Vicenta Zapanta. Andres was an indio natural from Tondo, resident of Binondo, widower. His first wife was Esperanza Francisco and the second was Gregoria, indio natural of Binondo, single, daughter of Felipe de la Cruz (deceased) and Gabina Cesar.

Was Andres Cipriano our Andres Bonifacio? Wasn't Bonifacio indeed a widower from Tondo? Didn't Gregoria de la Cruz sound like Gregoria de Jesus? Could the witness Espiridion Baniquit be a pseudonym for Espiridiona Bonifacio, sister of the Supremo? Knowing that Bonifacio used fake cedulas or residence certificates to go through enemy lines, isn't it possible that Andres and Oryang used fake cedulas to get married in Binondo Church?

My only problem here is that all I have is a strong hunch. I am convinced that Andres Cipriano and Gregoria de la Cruz are Andres Bonifacio and Gregoria de Jesus, but this will never be accepted by those who want more proof than what is here presented. Somewhere, maybe in the Archives of the Arzobispado de Manila, the rest of the file on Oryang will be found. Maybe, better proof of their 1894 marriage will surface one day.

* * *

*Comments are welcome at ambeth@admu.edu.ph*

# A boyhood dream

**HIGH BLOOD**

*Vic Milan*

*WE'D also like to know the concerns of the sixtysomething and above, what makes their blood pressure rise or makes them sit back, content that all's well with their world and with themselves.* —Ed.

AT 68, an age often associated with writing memoirs or watching the world go by while sitting contentedly on rocking chairs, I decided to fulfill a childhood dream: To island-hop the Philippines on an outrigger fishing banca.

As a kid many, many years ago, on occasional ferry boat trips from my coastal hometown of Baybay, Leyte to Cebu City—to do some shopping or see a couple of movies—I would stand by the railing fascinated by the sight of flying fish skittering over the blue waters off the Camotes Islands, and the outrigger bancas of island fishermen tending their fishing lines. And I would wonder to myself, how would it be to tour the country on a *sakayan* like that?

Meanwhile, in the long, intervening years, the boy became a man, and the man became an environmentalist, an environmental journalist even. And so it was that when the man finally decided it was time (he was not getting any younger, you see) to make his dream come true, he named his dream project "Bancaravan Sa Kalikasan."

It would be, I estimated, a six-week odyssey from Aparri to Zamboanga. From A to Z, get it? I looked forward to adventure, discovery, environmental advocacy and, of course, a lot of sport fishing along the way.

Reactions of friends varied. Jarius Bondoc, a fishing buddy, wrote that I must be crazy. But he admitted to some craziness himself by adding that he was seriously considering joining me on one or two legs of the trip, preferably the ones through known fishing sites.

Recah Trinidad was a little kinder. He wrote an entire column with the title, "The face of ageless adventure." Recah added in his piece that I was considering taking a couple of volunteers to help with documenting chores. That brought a flood of phone calls, e-mails, text messages from volunteer applicants all over the country, including from adventurous females and a haciendero from Negros.

February 2002 would have been a good month to take off. I figured that I could help tourism promotion efforts by sending back media reports of discovered places, teasing the imaginations of readers into planning their own summer trips.

But some adjustments in launch date were necessary. Sponsorship money was not easy to come by.

Then, in mid-June, just when I thought I might have to wait another year to fulfill my dream, Chito Macapagal of Unilever committed support from his company. My project was just the right means of gathering materials he needed for Unilever's participation in a water resources-related international conference in Kyoto, Japan this year.

Long-time friend Gina Virtucio of WG&A pitched in. As did former writing colleague Nixon Kua, PTA general manager. Additional commitments came in from Photokina Federal Chemicals volunteered to fiberglass-coat my banca for additional seaworthiness.

In response to my appeals for coordination support, the secretaries of the DENR, DILG and DOT sent circulars to their field offices. The League of Municipalities did the same. A handful of fellow anglers and friends gave additional expense money. Globe gave three cellular phones and a few thousand pesos worth of pre-paid cards.

There was no turning back now. It was southwest monsoon season. A few more typhoons were expected. So what? I bravely, and somewhat recklessly said I would also prove that travel and tourism in the Philippines is a year-round activity.

By the second week of July, I had my crew: My favorite boatman from Palawan, a young hunting companion from Zambales, and two UP graduates who were eager to help with documentation for the chance to tour the country as few others, if any, ever did or would.

Some lessons were already clear to me even then: If you have a magnificent dream, hold on to it no matter what. Never let go, and that dream will come true. And another thing. An individual with a strong will and worthy purpose will eventually gain the support of friends, the corporate world and government agencies.

July 17, 2002 is a date that will always be etched in our memories. Even as Manila continued to be drenched in days of rain and flooding, the sun smiled on those of us gathered for launching ceremonies on the grounds of the Philippine Game Fishing Foundation campsite in Santa Ana, Cagayan. Buntings and bon voyage streamers fluttered from the agoho pine trees and a makeshift stage. DILG Region II had brought a big contingent of well-wishers from Tuguegarao that included the regional tourism director, a drama group from the Bureau of Fisheries, elements of the PNP and PNP Maritime.

Santa Ana Mayor Vic Rodriguez and the parish priest were on hand. As were local fishermen; after all, empowerment of coastal communities was one of the major goals of the project. The short speeches were creatively woven into the open air stage presentation by the Bureau of Fisheries drama group. I take in the scene. It is a most touching gesture from newly found friends who prove with their presence their oneness with us in what we were trying to achieve. My throat is dry. I cannot hold back a few tears. It had taken more than half a century nurturing a boyhood dream. And here, at long last, it was coming true.

On my request, from one fisherman to fellow fishermen, the town fisherfolk carried my banca (named Kalikasan Vigilante after my daily environmental radio program) on their shoulders, *bayanihan* style to the water amid loud cheering. I send a text message to family, friends and supporters back in Manila: Bancaravan Sa Kalikasan is seaborne!

A couple of DOT ladies and Mayor Vic Rodriguez are on smaller bancas escorting us to our first stop: the town of Buguey where lunch and more ceremonies await us.

Throughout the 82 days and 3,317 kilometers that it took us to complete the journey, my crew (Ariel de los Reyes, Joe Mojares Jr., Jasper Manlapaz, Ed Enriquez) and I bonded as any five people would have while sailing from island to island—in varied sailing conditions none of us had ever before experienced. Scorching sun, drenching rain, turbulent seas, a couple of storms and sudden squalls we remember vividly now as we do the hospitality of entire coastal communities and government officials for which we can never adequately express our thanks.

The journal I managed to keep on my laptop is full of entries now slowly developing into a book. I want to tell our national leaders how flagrantly marine conservation laws are ignored in too many of the places we visited and went through. Poaching by foreign fishing vessels is virtually a daily occurrence in Cagayan waters. We lost count of the dynamiting incidents we witnessed. Big commercial fishing boats nightly operate in municipal waters reserved by law for community fisherfolk.

We do have an exceptionally beautiful country. Our stopovers in Mindoro, Coron, the islands of the Sulu Sea, those not too well-known islands in Negros and Eastern Visayas confirmed this. Sadly, we just are not taking good care of what this country is blessed with.

Tourism and conservation are inseparable. If we are to bring in more tourist dollars, if we are to help coastal communities rise above their poverty, if we are to restore a sense of pride in the Philippines and in being Filipino, we have to do something about the corruption, the lack of respect for laws, the indifference and hopeless resignation... It is time to get involved.

# Questioning the surveys

SINCE we are swayed or influenced by the numbers game that surveys basically purvey, it would help to first look at the objective side of things. Our population today stands at roughly 79 million. The surveys of Pulse Asia and Social Weather Stations cover only 1,200 sample sizes nationwide. Under statistical principles of close to accurate data gathering, the closer your sample gets to the number of your area of interest, the closer you also get to getting the real and accurate pulse of the population in that specific area of interest. However, if one gets something like 300 as the survey sample size in Metro Manila which has a population of roughly 8 to 9 million, how close can the survey be to the real and accurate sentiments of the people?

I say this because Pulse Asia came up with a survey stating that the Filipino people still do not favor Charter change with an approval rating of only 42 percent as against 58 percent who disapprove. An SWS survey finding that around 79 percent of the population do not agree to change the Charter followed this survey. Now, with both reputable survey groups having the same sample size of 1,200 respondents nationwide, why in the world do they have a very wide gap in terms of results? How can they explain the difference between 58 percent and 79 percent?

Another observation. The questions being asked are not as objective as they are supposed to be. Again, another basic principle in social survey is to know the awareness level of the population before moving on to validate other concerns. Not knowing if the respondents even know or read the Constitution is a valid concern, since that would significantly affect the survey correspondents' replies to questions asked.

We made our own survey validation regarding this matter (but with a much bigger sample size) and we found out that a lot from the middle- to lower-income bracket of our population do not know the Constitution or care even less to have it changed. But they are for Charter change not because they know it but they would go along and try it because it might help uplift their living conditions. A gamble some would take and a basic street-smart decision for others. All these in essence boil down to survival considerations.

How we overcome this lack among the populace is a real problem. But certainly, it would not be right to reduce the vital question of Charter change to a mere numbers game.

**—DENNIS L. CUNANAN,**
**head executive assistant**
**House of Representatives,**
**2/F Main Building, HOR,**
**Batasan Complex, Quezon City**

# Ateneo wants speedy probe

THE ATENEO Alumni Association Inc. most vehemently condemns the senseless murder of Jose Ramon Ruiz Llamas (Ll. B. 2002, School of Law, ADMU) in the afternoon of Jan. 10, 2003, over what was ostensibly a mere traffic altercation. We join in the call for a speedy, thorough and impartial investigation of the crime, the bringing of the perpetrator to fully account for the same and the realization of justice for our co-alumnus, whose life of promise as a lawyer had all but been wasted.

Finally, we ask the victim's family and all other loved ones he left behind, to accept our expression of profound condolence and solidarity.

**—LOUIS R. LABAYEN,**
**president, Ateneo Alumni**
**Association Inc., Katipunan Ave.,**
**Avenue, Loyola Heights, QC**

# Quezon, Marcos won reelection

THIS concerns Neal Cruz's Jan. 1, 2003 column, which contained an error. Ferdinand Marcos was reelected to a full term in November 1969. But Manuel L. Quezon was also reelected in November 1941, and inaugurated on Dec. 30, 1941 (which is why after that, presidents elected under the 1935 Constitution were inaugurated on Rizal Day).

The 1935 Constitution originally limited the president to a single six-year term with no reelection. The Constitution was amended to reduce the term to four years, with reelection to a second four-year term. This is why, under the amendment, Quezon's reelection was only valid for two years.

Incidentally, Quezon was reelected with a majority of 81 percent.

**—MANUEL L. QUEZON III,**
**New Manila, Quezon City**

# Belittling the work of Subic volunteers

IT'S unfortunate that the noble deeds and sense of unity of the volunteers, who helped secure the former US naval base from the eruption of Mt. Pinatubo and the building of a premier international airport, are being incessantly harangued by people like Louie Kabigting with their irresponsible accusations. (Letters, 1/22/03)

Worse, to solicit sympathy and credibility, Kabigting shamelessly ascribed himself as a former volunteer which, of course, he is not. I should know, because I am the barangay captain of Gordon Heights where he resides and we have no record of Kabigting's so called-volunteer service. The truth is, Kabigting is a discredited local politician who has been known for his ferocious anti-Gordon stance. He is presently connected as consultant with Freeport Service Corp., a subsidiary of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority, with other personalities whose only credentials and qualification for appointment are their anti-Gordon stand.

The names of the men and women who gloriously carried the banner of volunteerism are permanently inscribed in a granite wall of the Volunteers Shrine which was fittingly erected and dedicated to them. They are the more then 10,000 people from Olongapo, Zambales, Bataan and other parts of the country who unselfishly shared their time and resources for a noble cause. A number of these volunteers are already dead and had been recognized for making a difference at that time of uncertainties. It's ironic that Kabigting and his ilk, to please the powers that be at the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority, continue to mock and degrade the very people to whom he owes his job and well-being.

**—DAMIAN DELOS SANTOS JR.,**
**barangay captain,**
**Barangay Gordon Heights,**
**Olongapo City**

# On losing one's faith

IT is unfortunate that my favorite columnist, Justice Isagani Cruz, has long stopped attending Mass due to his disappointment over the manner a certain priest delivered his sermon. (PDI, 1/18/03) Many have lost faith that way, but others have also found their way back to the Church through the brilliance of other priests' homilies.

The human element of the Mass, however, should not be its focus. To do so is to lose sight of the tremendous spiritual merit of this precious gift from God despite the limitations of the celebrant. The Eucharistic celebration is not only an occasion where we listen and give thanks to God as His people. More importantly, it is where Jesus fulfills his promise that "whoever eats this bread will live forever, and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world."

Jesus could not have been more clear on this point, but many of his disciples lost faith and did not believe Him (as do so many of us). And so Jesus was abandoned by many of His disciples who "returned to their former way of life and no longer accompanied Him." Thus, Jesus asked his 12 Apostles a faith-defining question, "Do you also want to leave?" Simon Peter answered, "Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life."

The Church since ancient times, guided by the Holy Spirit as promised by Jesus, has testified to the authenticity of this teaching. The Church has celebrated this liturgy as the center of the Church's whole existence. Having received apostolic authority from the Church, the priest in celebrating Mass, no matter how unpleasant he may be, assumes the role of Jesus. By such authority he puts into reality the will of Jesus to give His body and blood in the form of bread and wine.

We may have our own private way of interpreting what Jesus meant with His words as our other Christian brothers do, but this is how it is taught by Christ's apostolic and post-apostolic successors from generation to generation since antiquity.

The same question asked by Jesus more than 2,000 years ago, "Do you also want to leave?" should be asked of those who hear His staggering words now. Giving up this mystery of the Mass because of the imperfection of Jesus' human representatives is to allow human frailty to overcome the covenant with God of those who accept Him.

**—ROBERTO P. BUENAVENTURA,**
**University of the**
**Philippines Parish,**
**homer38@info.com.ph**

# On San Martin and roasting pigs

IN NOVEMBER 1983, I was working as consultant at the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations in Rome. During that time, Jaime Cardinal Sin visited the Vatican, and when interviewed in the press on his opinion of President Marcos, he was quoted as saying, "Marcos will soon have his 'San Martin.'"

My Italian colleagues could not understand what the naughty Cardinal meant. So I explained that in the Philippines, during the feast of San Martin de Porres, people usually roast a pig for the celebration. This has been confirmed by the personnel of Saint Martin de Porres Hospital, Central Azucarera de Tarlac.

But I think there was a problem with a metaphor in Filipino when translated into English. "*Si Marcos ay malapit nang litsonin.*"

Of course, the pig is said to be the most intelligent animal in George Orwell's "Animal Farm." Unfortunately, I failed to see "Babe: Pig in the City" when the movie was shown some time in the '90s. But I can still remember the ad which said, "Every pig will have his.... "

Now, circa 2003—i.e., almost two decades since Cardinal Sin was quoted in Rome—my colleagues have been asking for my opinion on the rumored coup d'état against President Macapagal-Arroyo. But I tell them that it would not be necessary for any segment of the Armed Forces to launch an "unauthorized military exercise"—to borrow a term from Gen. Fidel Ramos—since the President is self-destructing!

Paging Cardinal Sin: Could he muster enough guts to say that Ms Macapagal would soon have her "San Martin"? Hereabouts, the metaphor should be easy to understand. *Si* Gloria *ay malapit* nang litsonin—*o katayin kaya!"* Good Cardinal, please do now! *Baka mauna pa tayong malitson! Huwag kang magalala*, Gloria, *hindi ka ata nagiisa!*

**—CANDIDO P. FILIO,**
**retired professor,**
**University of the Philippines**

# What the President should do

WHAT President Macapagal-Arroyo should do so that this country would not "perish." Firstly, collect taxes very efficiently at the maximum level of 100 percent starting 2003. Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said that the biggest problem draining the government's pockets is tax evasion. Based on the estimates of the International Monetary Fund, tax evasion had cost the Philippine government over P200 billion in 2000. The losses can be of the same magnitude or even more gargantuan in nature in 2001 and 2002 for the simple reason that tax evasion is still undiminished.

The United States attained and sustains her status as the only superpower nation mainly on her superefficient and no nonsense tax collection system and method.

Al Capone, during his heyday as a notorious but influential and "untouchable" gangster leader, was finally jailed by the US government by charging him with tax evasion. By the full force of the law, jail all tax evaders! Collect without haste the overdue unpaid taxes of the big "untouchable" businessmen. Fearlessly assess and vigorously collect the true amount of taxes of all big business establishments in the country. The widespread malpractice of retail traders such as department stores/supermarkets and other dealers to grossly understate their annual sales must be checked and stopped by all means. This sector alone, if properly taxed, will provide an enormous amount of revenue for the ailing economy. Form a superbody tasked to collect taxes at 100-percent efficiency this year!

Secondly, run after all crime syndicates. Use the full force and resources of the Philippine National Police especially its intelligence unit. Identify and arrest all masterminds and members of kidnap gangs, car thieves, robbers and terrorists.

Thirdly, intensify checking the lifestyles of all officials and personnel of executive, legislative and judicial offices, local government units and line agencies of the government. Those identified with lavish lifestyles must be subject to rigid investigation to find out the source(s) of their excess money.

After GMA wisely and heroically unshackled herself from the grip of the voters' whims and caprices as well as her political and financial supporters, she can now do anything under the sun that a President is supposed to do in order to realize a mission and a destiny to snatch our nation from the dark and unending rut we have been in.

**—JESUS R. FLORENTINO,**
**Canelar, Zamboanga City**

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# The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

A SAILOR from the Royal Australian Navy ship HMAS Kanimbla embraces his girlfriend before departing from Sydney Jan. 23. Tearful families and outraged protesters watched as the ship streamed out to join a buildup of US and British troops preparing for possible war against Iraq. REUTERS

# France, Germany lock arms to stop US-led war on Iraq

**BAGHDAD/ WASHINGTON— France and Germany joined forces on Wednesday to try to stop a US-led war on Iraq, while President George W. Bush stepped up his rhetoric with a warning to Iraqi commanders that they would face war crimes charges if they used chemical or biological weapons.**

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein raised the specter of street-fighting in Iraq's towns and cities, saying his people would rise up to confront any invading force.

"From where will the invader pass? He will find a people all of whose men and women have vowed not to allow them to pass by," a defiant Saddam told senior Army officers in an address, extracts of which were broadcast on state television.

The Americans would "fall into a thousand pits because of their poor planning," Saddam said.

President Jacques Chirac of France and Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder of Germany both said that UN inspectors scouring Iraq for weapons of mass destruction needed more time to complete their work.

US Secretary of State Colin Powell said it was not clear how long France and Germany wanted the inspections to continue or even "whether they're serious about bringing it to a conclusion at some time." The two European nations appeared intent on trying to hold the United States back from unilateral action against Iraq, insisting that the Security Council was the only body with the legitimacy to approve an attack.

"War is not inevitable," Chirac said to loud applause from French and German deputies at a joint parliamentary session in the Versailles Palace near Paris to mark the 40th anniversary of a friendship treaty between the two nations.

In a joint television interview with Chirac, Schroeder said he would do all he could to have Iraq disarmed peacefully. "I won't give up, but use all my power so that happens without war," the German leader said.

At Nato headquarters in Brussels, France and Germany blocked a decision on whether to prepare supporting measures that would help the United States in any war against Iraq.

Bush said Saddam was not interested in giving up weapons of mass destruction.

"He asked for more time so he can give the so-called inspectors more runaround. He's interested in playing hide-and-seek in a huge country. He's not interested in disarming," Bush said in St. Louis, Missouri.

The United States has threatened to attack Iraq and overthrow Saddam if it does not meet the disarmament terms of a UN resolution passed in November. Iraq denies it has any such weapons and says it is cooperating with the inspectors.

A key date is Monday, when the inspectors report to the UN on the extent of Iraqi cooperation. US forces totaling about 150,000 should be ready for action next month if Bush decides war is necessary.

Bush advised Iraqi officers and soldiers to disobey any orders to use weapons of mass destruction in a conflict.

"If you choose to do so, when Iraq is liberated, you will be treated, tried and persecuted as a war criminal." *Reuters*

# *Ancient treasures in the line of fire*

IRAQ—Swirling desert sands lead to the ancient rose-colored temple mound of Ur in south Iraq, a Sumerian city which has survived century upon century of turmoil.

Within a few weeks Ur could find itself in the midst of a high-tech modern war, as US tanks and troops roll by and laser-guided missiles streak overhead in an invasion of Iraq.

The United States is massing troops in the Gulf ahead of a possible war over weapons of mass destruction it says President Saddam Hussein is hiding, and experts say that puts Iraq's wealth of ancient treasures at more risk.

Kuwait, from where a US attack could be launched, is barely 100 km to the south over flat desert from this 4,000-year-old city which in Jewish, Christian and Muslim tradition was the birthplace of the biblical patriarch Abraham.

Pope John Paul II shelved plans to visit Abraham's birthplace in 2000 as part of a millennium tour of Middle East holy sites, over concerns about his safety in the area, where US and British planes maintain an Iraqi no-fly zone.

An Iraqi excavation team which began work here in 1999 has apparently quit the site, leaving soldiers from a series of military installations around it and the odd Asian tour group the only figures on the horizon.

"This is a place of civilization, not war," said site guard Dayef Mohsen, pointing to a series of holes on the outer wall of the temple, or ziggurat, which he explained were caused by shrapnel from bombs dropped by US planes during the 1991 Gulf War.

The horizon is dominated by the ziggurat of Ur—testament to the sophistication of the Sumerian people.

Signs explain that an ancient building renovated by an Iraqi team four years ago is the home of Abraham, whom Muslims regard as the father of the prophets.

"When we talk about Abraham as the father of the prophets that means that all the prophets were Iraqi in origin," reads one sign, quoting comments by Saddam.

Preparations have been made to protect priceless museum collections from looting and bombing that saw the theft of some 4,000 pieces in 1991, said Nawala al-Mutawalli, a Sumerian language expert at Baghdad's Iraq Museum.

If there is another war, "we'll take all the items and pack them away again, as much as we can," she said, adding that some would be taken to "secret locations." The Iraq Museum, with its priceless collection from Iraq's Sumerian, Akkadian, Babylonian, Assyrian and Islamic eras, opened only two years ago after the Gulf War closed its doors.

The museum, which has been closed for 14 of the last 20 years because of Iraq's successive wars, was damaged during the bombing of a neighboring telephone exchange.

Most of its stunning statues and wall reliefs from the Babylonian and Assyrian era will have to stay put because of their size and make do with special covers, Mutawalli said.

Objects removed before the 1991 war to museums in outlying areas were stolen by Iraqis during the chaos of defeat and a popular uprising in the south. *Reuters*

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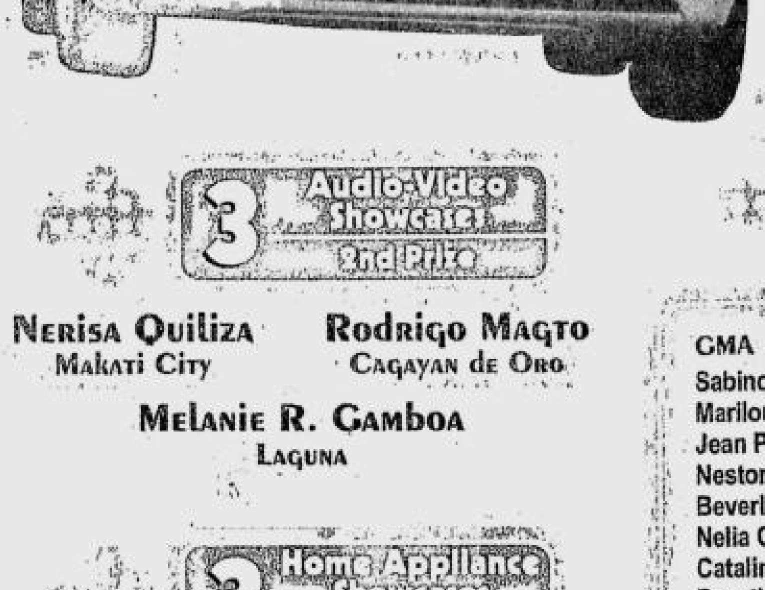

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**A NORTH Korean woman carrying a baby on her back walks down a street in Pyongyang, North Korea Jan. 23.** REUTERS

# There will be no war–N. Korea

SEOUL—US efforts to bring the nuclear standoff with North Korea to the United Nations stalled Thursday as Pyongyang signaled a more conciliatory approach to the crisis and reportedly ruled out military conflict.

North Korea's apparent softening of its position has emerged during high-level talks with South Korea here which entered a third day Thursday.

"The position of the DPRK (North Korea) is that it will not bring the standoff with the United States to the worst-case scenario," Seoul's Hankyoreh daily reported Thursday an unidentified North Korean delegate as telling his South Korean counterparts.

"You don't have to worry about it too much."

The term "worst-case scenario" has been used here to describe a war breaking out on the Korean peninsula.

The delegates' comments came a day after the five-man North Korean team said Pyongyang had no intention of restarting its nuclear weapons program "at this stage."

"Although we have withdrawn from the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, we have no intention of producing nuclear weapons at this stage," chief North Korean delegate Kim Ryong-Song said on Wednesday.

As the North Koreans tried to present a softer edge to the standoff with the United States, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) said it would not meet this week to discuss the nuclear issue.

"International Atomic Energy Agency board members have yet to reach a consensus on the date for their meeting," a South Korean foreign ministry official told reporters.

"Taking into account this fact, there is little possibility of an IAEA board members' meeting taking place this week."

The IAEA's 35-member board was expected to convene Friday in Vienna but the South Korean official said it was now likely to take place next week or in early February.

The statement came after top-ranking US disarmament official John Bolton said here on Wednesday that a broad consensus was emerging for the issue to be brought before the UN Security Council within days.

But in a rebuff to that, IAEA spokesperson Mark Gwozdecky said in Vienna that it was uncertain what decision the board would take when it met to discuss referral of the nuclear issue to the UN Security Council.

"No decision has been taken . . . There is no consensus yet," Gwozdecky said.

The IAEA is the UN's main weapons inspector body and currently has jurisdiction over the dispute.

Bolton said that he did not expect any opposition to a move from the five permanent members of the Security Council, which include Pyongyang's allies Russia and China, to send the conflict from the IAEA to the Security Council.

But UN officials and diplomats indicated that Russia, which has proposed its own plan to resolve the crisis, wanted more time for diplomacy before the Security Council was brought into the standoff. *AFP*

# Mexico quake death toll rises to 28

COLIMA, Mexico—The death toll rose to 28 late Wednesday as rescue workers sifted through the wreckage of houses and buildings demolished in a massive earthquake along Mexico's Pacific coast.

Most of the dead were crushed in collapsed buildings in Colima state, some 760 km, in the wake of Tuesday's 7.8-magnitude earthquake that struck at 8:06 p.m. and was felt for just 10 seconds. At least 300 were injured.

Visiting President Vicente Fox, who visited the stricken area, said despite the strength of the temblor, its impact had been dramatically less severe than may have been feared.

"Fortunately the consequences were not of the gravity we might have expected," Fox said.

"We want help now," one homeless man told Fox, who replied: "We're going to repair everything, you can count on the support." Thousands spent the night outside their damaged homes, and some 150 people had taken refuge in five shelters set up by authorities, the Red Cross said.

Tuesday's quake, centered 10 km off the Colima coast, was felt throughout central Mexico to Veracruz on the Atlantic Ocean. It caused widespread panic in a country that has still not forgotten a 1985 earthquake which killed 20,000.

"This has been the first great earthquake of the 21st century," seismologist Javier Pacheco said.

In the quake zone, at least 500 houses along the Pacific Ocean coast were destroyed, with around 1,000 buildings damaged in all.

Three coastal towns were also evacuated in anticipation of a possible tsunami as Mexico's government declared a state of emergency in five cities—Colima, Villa de Alvarez, Coquimatlan, Armenia and Tecoman.

Some 89 hospitals suffered structural damage, and 415 schools were shut—leaving 83,000 students without school.

At least 12 aftershocks have been felt since the earthquake, including one late Wednesday of 5.8 magnitude, seismologists said.

Two other states registered fatalities.

In Jalisco, a young girl and an 85-year-old woman were killed outside the state capital of Guadalajara, Mexico's second largest city. *AFP*

# Suspect in slay of American in Kuwait nabbed

DUBAI—Saudi Arabian border authorities arrested at dawn on Wednesday a Kuwaiti suspected of killing an American working at a US base in Kuwait this week, the official Saudi Press Agency (SPA) said.

It quoted an interior ministry official as saying authorities arrested the man as he tried to enter the kingdom from neighboring Kuwait, to where he would be handed back.

The official said initial investigations showed the man, who was not named, had fired an automatic rifle that killed Michael Rene Pouliot, 46, a civilian contractor working for a US military base in Kuwait.

Another US contractor, David Caraway, was wounded in Tuesday's attack and was being treated in a hospital in Kuwait city.

No Kuwaiti official was immediately available for comment.

Kuwaiti police said one or more attackers had opened fire on the Americans from trees and bushes at the side of the road on Tuesday morning before escaping.

Kuwaiti sources said authorities had rounded up between 60 to 70 people for questioning.

The country's Information Minister Sheikh Ahmad al-Fahd al-Sabah said a link to Iraq or al-Qaida could not be ruled out.

The United States embassy condemned the shooting as a terrorist attack.

It was the third time since October that Americans have been killed or injured in attacks in Kuwait, which has been a staunch US ally since a US-led coalition freed it from Iraqi occupation in 1991.

In November, Saudi Arabia arrested a Kuwaiti policeman who had shot and seriously wounded two US soldiers training in Kuwait before fleeing to the kingdom.

More than 15,000 US soldiers are in Kuwait and more are arriving every week ahead of a possible war with Iraq. *Reuters*

ninja master ©

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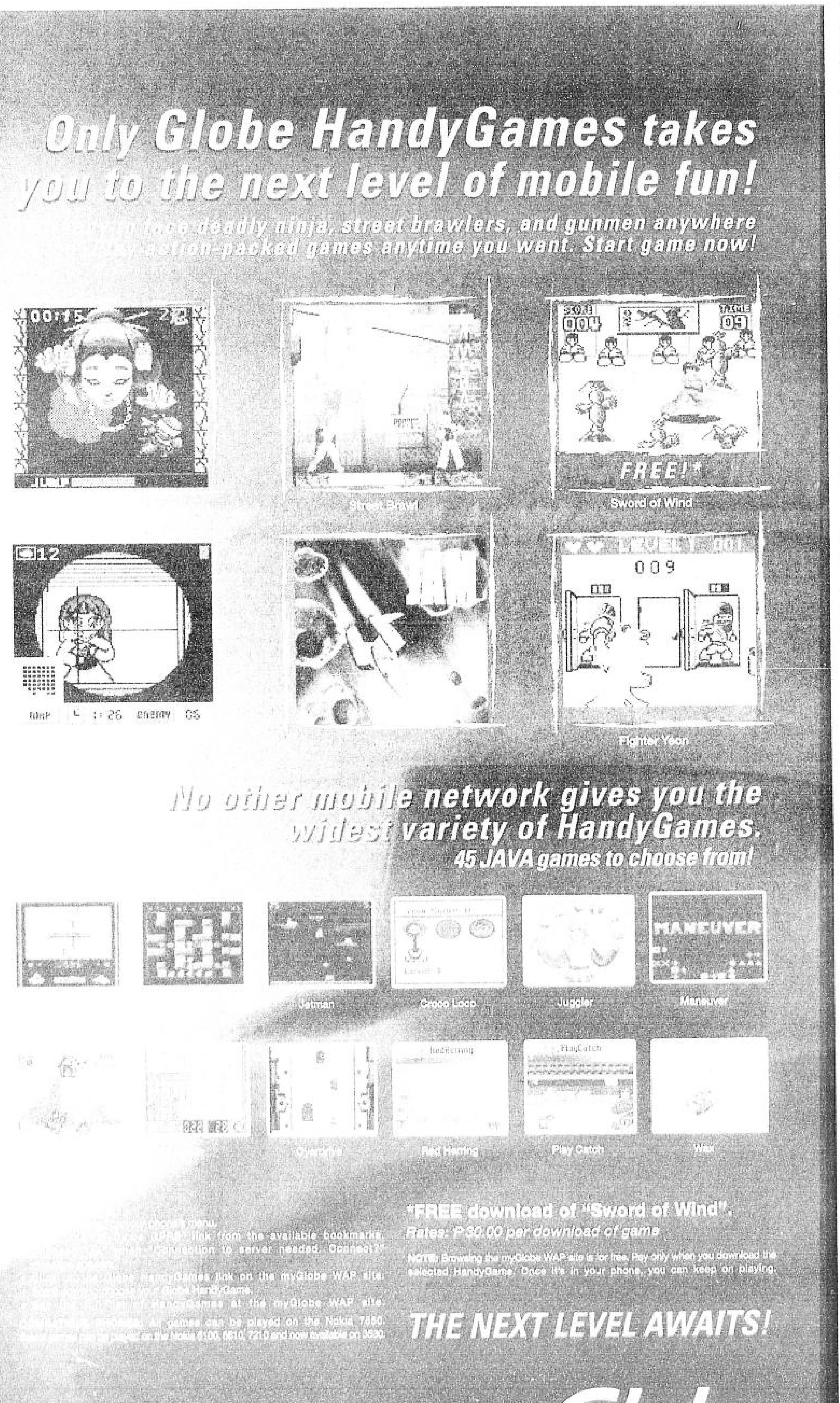
While [illegible] adversaries [illegible] residents of [illegible] pro-govern- [illegible] day to cele- [illegible] of Marcos Perez Jimenez, Venezuela's last dictator, in 1958. Government allies urged Chavez supporters from across the country to turn out for the march.

Strike leader Carlos Ortega, president of the nation's largest labor union, accused Chavez's supporters of planning a violent rampage in the capital. He urged government adversaries, who have staged near daily street marches since the strike began on Dec. 2, "to stay at home" to avoid "a massacre."

Interior Minister Lucas Rincon guaranteed security forces would maintain public order.

Chavez, a self-proclaimed "revolutionary" whose leftist rhetoric has scared off foreign investment, said he was against imposing the new currency controls but had to do it out of necessity. *AP*



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# Dutch Christian Democrats win, pledge stability

AMSTERDAM—The ruling Christian Democrats (CDA) beat a resurgent Labour opposition in a knife-edge Dutch election on Wednesday as voters deserted populist Pim Fortuyn's volatile party in droves, preliminary results showed.

Voters rallied to the CDA and Labour, the traditional pillars of Dutch democracy, raising the prospect of a "grand coalition" after Fortuyn's fractious anti-immigration party brought down a short-lived center-right coalition last year.

But the shape of the next coalition was anything but clear after the Netherlands' second election in eight months.

Prime Minister Jan Peter Balkenende's conservative CDA has pledged to restore stability in the Netherlands after a year of upheaval.

A CDA victory could see Balkenende, who bears a striking resemblance to movie boy wizard Harry Potter, return for a second term in office as prime minister.

CDA bailed out of a coalition with Pim Fortuyn List (LPF) and the free market VVD last October after a feud between LPF ministers crippled the cabinet. With only 87 days in office, it was the shortest-lived Dutch coalition since World War II.

Balkenende, a former economy professor described by one television commentator as "dull but 200 percent reliable," faces the painstaking task of forming a new coalition with several options on the cards.

One is a return to coalition with LPF and VVD, but the preliminary result also raised the prospect of the CDA and Labour rekindling a grand coalition which ruled the traditionally stable Netherlands from 1989 to 1994 under CDA Prime Minister Ruud Lubbers.

Projected results based on almost all votes gave the CDA 44 of parliament's 150 seats—two seats ahead of Labour, which soared to 42 from the 23 it scored in last May's election. The CDA had won 43 seats in the 2002 election.

LPF—which sent shockwaves through traditionally stable Dutch politics last May by coming from nowhere to win second place—dived to eight seats from 26, driving it to joint fifth place in the election pecking-order. *Reuters*

# India orders Pakistan envoys to leave country

NEW DELHI—India on Wednesday ordered four members of the Pakistani high commission (embassy) to quit the country within 48 hours, stepping up an ongoing diplomatic spat with its nuclear rival.

The four were expelled because they were "indulging in activities incompatible with their diplomatic status, an euphemism for spying," an official from the Indian foreign ministry said.

But Indian government spokesperson Navtej Sarna declined to assign a reason for the expulsion of high-ranking Pakistani diplomat Mansoor Saeed Sheikh, First Secretary Mian Mohammad Esif and two embassy staffers.

"I am not at liberty to share that with the press," he said, when asked whether the four were being formally accused of espionage.

"All the four have been declared *persona non-grata*," he said, adding the other two were non-diplomatic staff in the Pakistani mission.

Sarna dismissed suggestions that the expulsions were part of an ongoing diplomat spat with rival Pakistan.

"This is on the basis of the fact that we have evidence that they were indulging in activities incompatible with their official status," he said, declining to give more details.

In Islamabad, senior Pakistani foreign ministry official Kamran Niaz rejected any accusations that the four were spying.

"The charges are absolutely rubbish and we reject them," Niaz told AFP.

Pakistan's chief diplomat in New Delhi, Jalil Abbas Jilani, said India had not assigned any reason for the expulsions and hinted that Islamabad could take similar action.

"This is an unfortunate development. India has not leveled any charges and clearly we feel that it is an attempt to further vitiate the already tense relations between the two countries," Jilani told AFP. *AFP*

# Across the NATION

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## Transport strike hits city, town in Pampanga

ANGELES CITY—Public transport was paralyzed here and in nearby Mabalacat town on Thursday due to a strike held by members of the Alliance of Transport Movement, composed of thousands of jeepney and tricycle drivers and operators.

They were protesting the high prices of emission testing and related charges, compulsory drug testing, the phasing out of two-stroke motorcycle engines and the latest round of oil price increase.

Members of the alliance that supported the scheduled 12-hour strike that started at 6 a.m. include the Pinagkaisang Samahan ng mga Drivers sa Angeles City, Metro Angeles Transport Cooperative, and the Federation of Tricycle Operators and Drivers Association.

The strike was held simultaneously with a picket in front of the Land Transportation Office here.

Jose Dayrit, one of the alliance's leaders, said they are seeking a moratorium on emission testing until the LTO has acquired its own testing equipment.

He said drivers could not afford the fees imposed on tests done by LTO-accredited private firms.

Frank Mangulabnan, Bagong Alyansang Makabayan-Pampanga chair, said the government has been pushing for the implementation of the Clean Air Act despite the lack of preparedness of the affected sectors.

"The government could not even buy its own emission testing equipment because the country has not yet achieved economic development. We are nót against the implementation of Clean Air Act but it should be done on a staggered basis. What would happen to thousands of tricycle drivers if the government would stop them from using their very means of livelihood? Economic progress should be the priority," he said.

Roman Polintan, Bayan-Gitnang Luson chair, said transport groups in Bamban and Capas towns in Tarlac also held a transport strike on Thursday.

Senior Supt. Jaime Restua, Angeles police chief, said his office mobilized several vehicles for its "Libreng Sakay" program to cushion the effect of the transport strike. *Jun Malig, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

# The Netherlands funds bid to save RP mountain

**CAMP MELCHOR DELA CRUZ, Isabela—The government of The Netherlands has tapped an international non-government organization to implement a seven-year conservation and protection program to save the threatened marine and forest ecosystems in the Sierra Madre Natural Park.**

Jan Williem Cools, first secretary for forests and environment of the Royal Netherlands Embassy, said the Dutch government has tapped the World Wildlife Foundation (WWF) to implement the Northern Sierra Madre Conservation, Protection and Development Program that would be funded by The Netherlands through a P570-million grant spread in seven years.

William Savella, community environment and natural resources officer, said the conservation and development efforts will include the conservation of several animal species that are found in the Sierra Madre mountain ranges.

### Endangered

Among the endangered species that need protection in the natural park include the *pawikan* or sea turtle (Chelonia mytas), the *bayakan* or giant bat, the Philippine eagle (Pithecophaga jefferyi), the wild boar (Sus philippinesis), the Philippine brown dear (Cervus marianus), the cloud rat (Ratus mindorensis) and the flame-breasted fruit dove, according to Savella.

Environment officials have also received reports that the number of other animal species, like the *kalaw* (Philippine hornbill), *bukarot* (Philippine crocodile) and the native owl, is decreasing in the Sierra Madre national park.

They attributed the decrease of the number of species to the diminishing forest cover in the area and to poaching.

Savella said the WWF will hold an environmental education campaign nationwide to expose community leaders and residents near the mountain ranges of the value of the park and to boost the conservation effort.

Jose Ma. Lorenzo Tan, WWF president, said he believed that after the seven-year program, the park will be properly managed by the community.

### 'Act, plan, roll . . .'

"The laws governing it will be fully enforced, the people have livelihood and communities are involved," he said.

"The key ingredient for this big change is right partnership. We act, we plan, we roll . . . we have to respond to the changing situation at the Sierra Madre natural park," he told the INQUIRER.

Cools, Tan and Savella met with officials and community leaders in Isabela and Cagayan last week to discuss the program, which will officially start in February.

The 359,000-hectare Sierra Madre natural park is the country's largest and one of the few remaining virgin forests in the Philippines. But it is threatened with deforestation because of illegal logging and its animals threatened by poaching.

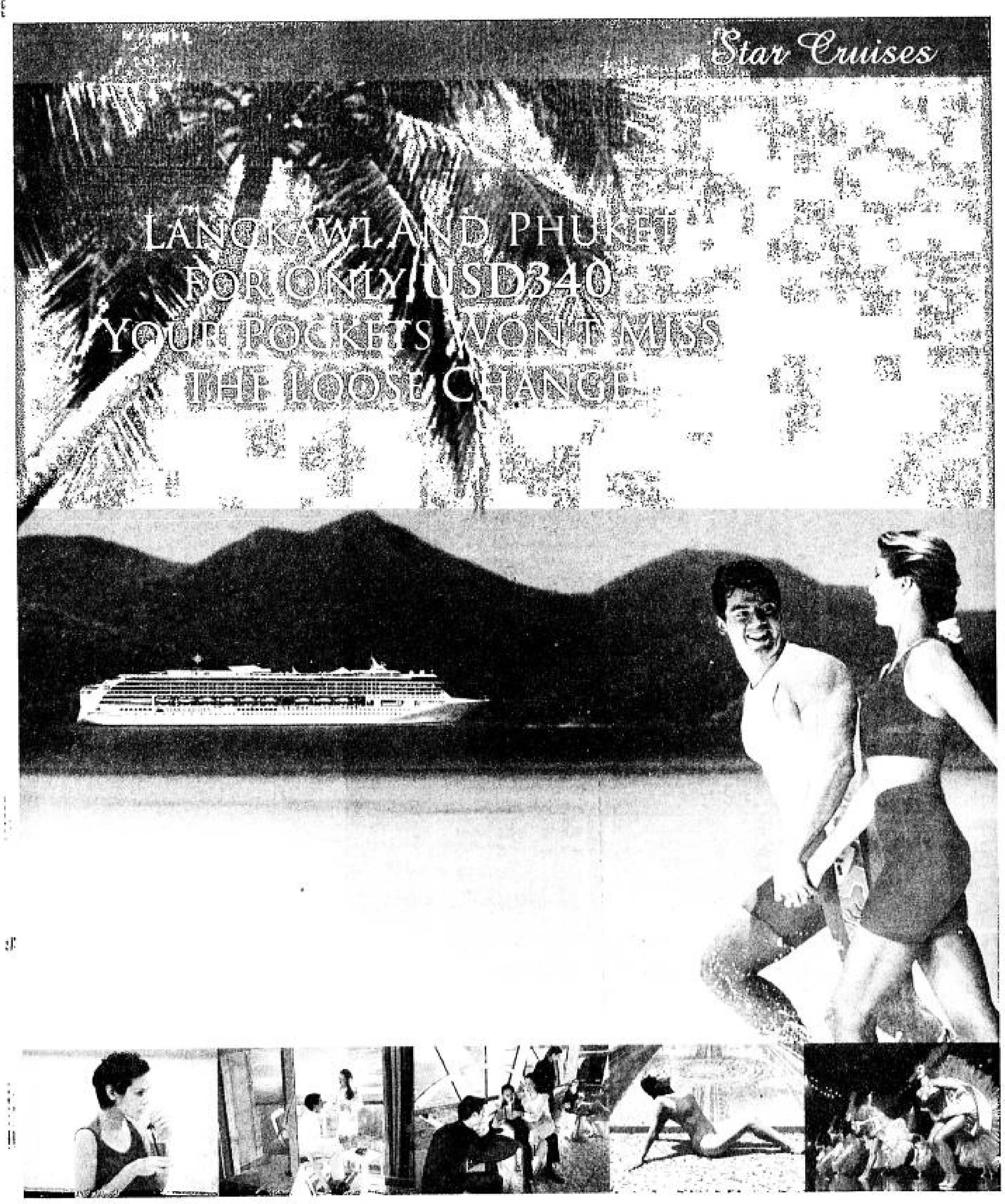
The mountain range covers the towns of San Mariano, Dinapigue, Palanan, Maconacon, Divilacan, San Pablo, Cabagan, Tumauini and Ilagan in Isabela and parts of Cagayan.

More than 1,000 members of the indigenous tribes Agtas, Dumagats and Ibukids consider the area as the largest abode of their communities.

### Tribal communities

DENR records showed that the park's forest cover was intact in 1901. In 1926, loggers have encroached in the forest areas and by the 1960s, massive logging operations were reported there. In 1987, only one-third of the eastern portion of the park was considered virgin forest.

On Sept. 7, 1979, the DENR declared all forestlands within a 45-km radius of the mountain ranges from Palanan town as a "wilderness area." It was declared later as a protected area in March 1997. *Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*



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## RP envoys tell farmers to aim for Asian market

BAGUIO CITY—If local farmers can't beat Chinese vegetables, they may try selling their vegetables instead to the Philippines' neighboring countries.

The government is offering farmers the attractions of neighboring Asian markets, after President Macapagal-Arroyo voiced her concerns last week about the debilitating impact of an unbalanced free trade.

During a forum on Asean trade opportunities here, a team of Filipino commercial attachés to the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) said farmers could rebuild their industry to be able to export their commodities to Malaysia and Indonesia.

Armando Galimba, Cordillera director of the Department of Trade and Industry, said Asean trade with the Philippines posted $61.701 billion in 2001 revenues, although the United States and Japan still account for the bulk of the country's export targets.

China, which had been considered as the source of smuggled vegetables now flooding Philippine markets, increased its trade with the country by 153 percent, posting a $113-million revenue. The country exported $970 million in 2001, and imported $875 million.

Globalization, however, forces a shift from large-scale market targets to cheaper, but sustainable markets in Asia, said Glen Penaranda, economic attaché to Kuala Lumpur.

He said farmers and small and medium businesses could study the halal-certified food market, which is worth $80 billion in world trade.

Halal food commodities are consumable products designed to suit the religious prerequisites of Islamic cultures. Bedejim Abdullah, an Islamic scholar, said halal or "clean" products like beef or chicken meat require a special process of butchering.

"This new market will require the Philippines to develop its own system of halal quality certification," Penaranda said.

Malaysia imports most of its food, after it concentrated its resources on rubber manufacturing, he explained.

The farmers from Benguet and Mt. Province had petitioned on Tuesday the Tariff Commission to raise taxes on importable vegetables, saying a more protectionist policy must be set in place for their ailing sector.

Benguet Gov. Raul Molintas placed vegetable farm losses last year at P21 million, after imported Australian and European vegetables and smuggled Chinese carrots, cabbages, and potatoes displaced local farmers from their traditional client base in Metro Manila.

He said the flood of overseas vegetables magnified the Philippines' unusually low tariff control over agricultural products.

Martes Dionisio, president of the Benguet Farmers Federation, said vegetable "farm gate prices remain very low." *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

## Fight over water turns violent; 3 farmers hurt

COTABATO CITY—At least three farmers were wounded on Sunday after they got involved in a violent argument over the use of irrigation water for their dried-up farms in Midsayap, Cotabato.

Mayor Romeo Arana told radio station dxMY here that William Castrence and Joel Domondon of Barangay Patindeguen and Dominador Cambre of Barangay Nalin had a heated argument on whose farm would avail first of the services of the National Irrigation Administration (NIA).

The NIA has earlier resorted to water rationing because of the El Niño phenomenon.

Arana said Castrence and Domondon were insisting that their farms in Barangay Patindeguen should be the first to get water but Cambre, 52, insisted on directing water to his farm in Barangay Nalin because it was already becoming dry.

But the argument became violent with Castrence and Domondon pounding on Cambre.

Of the three, only Cambre was in critical condition at the Cotabato Regional and Medical Center here.

In an interview with radio station dxMY, Cambre said he was pumping water into his farm when Castrence and Domondon approached him.

He said the two farmers were angry at his use of a motorized water pump "because the water would not reach their farms."

Cambre said he ignored the two until a sudden pain hit him.

He said he later realized that the two hacked him so he also drew and swung his *machete*, hitting Castrence and Domondon.

With the incident, Arana urged farmers to strictly follow the NIA's water-rationing schedule to avoid violence.

Makmod Mending, NIA Central Mindanao manager, said sobriety should prevail among farmers in the wake of the water-rationing schedule.

He said NIA only implemented what farmers' [illegible]ations in the municipalities have previously agreed upon. *Charlie C. Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

### MESSAGE

My cordial greetings to the management and workforce of **Matsushita Electric Philippines Corporation (MEPCO)** on the inauguration of your *Window-Type Air Conditioner Export.*

I commend your company for its respectable growth over the years. Your achievement bespeaks of the Filipino's creativity, industry and entrepreneurial spirit. It also reflects the continued dynamism of manufacturing companies in our country. Your achievements, along with many other industries, complement our government's efforts in creating a vibrant business environment.

Your contribution is vital to our country's economic growth and to our aspiration for sustainable human development. I therefore call on you to continue helping our Administration achieve its development goals. Let us continue our work together in building a strong Philippine Republic founded on productivity, employment opportunities, cooperation and innovative global business initiatives.

*MABUHAY!*

GMArroyo
**GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO**

### MESSAGE

Our warmest greetings to the management and staff of **Matsushita Electric Philippines Corporation (MEPCO)** on the **Official Inauguration** of your ***Window-Type Air Conditioner Manufacturing for Export Expansion Project*** at the MEPCO Sta. Rosa Laguna Plant on the 22nd of January 2003.

It is heartening to note that after Matsushita established its first Philippine joint venture operations in 1967, three more export-oriented companies have since followed. More notably, the four companies -- whose operations are based in the countryside (one in Rizal and three in Laguna) -- are now manufacturing an expanded range of *National* and *Panasonic* electric and electronic products and equipment.

We are indeed pleased that Matsushita has chosen the Philippines through MEPCO as its export base for Window-Type Air Conditioners under its "Selection and Concentration" corporate global strategy. This move -- which represents investments of P231 million, and will expand products of the company's window type air conditioner from 67,000 units in 2001 to 220,000 units in 2005, and its exports from 3,000 units in 2001 to 126,000 units by 2005 -- sends to the international investment community a strong signal of business confidence in the Philippines as an ideal platform for overseas operations in ASEAN.

We are confident that MEPCO, as an ISO-9002 and ISO-14001 certified company, will continue to pursue its commitment to consistently provide its clientele with the highest standards of quality, efficiency and reliability in its services, and support government efforts in the control, prevention and elimination of unfair, unscrupulous and anomalous trade practices in all shapes and shades.

Thus, we definitely look forward to the continuing success of Matsushita's operations in the country as a shining testimony to Philippine-Japanese collaboration in industry, engineering technology, investments and trade.

To MEPCO, our sincere congratulations and best wishes for continuing growth, prosperity and progress.

*Mabuhay!*

**MAR Roxas**
**Secretary**
**DEPARTMENT OF TRADE & INDUSTRY**

### MESSAGE

My warmest greetings to the men and women behind the continuing success of Matsushita Electric Philippines Corporation on the occasion of the inauguration of your window-type air conditioner export on January 22, 2003.

I am pleased to note that your company continues to help provide the strength and dynamism that complement our province vigorous efforts at excellence and growth. Your partnership during this period of economic recovery will surely boost not only the business activities of our province but also the confidence of the world in the capabilities and competitiveness of our people. It is in this endeavor that I see the momentum that will expand and sustain the success we have so far achieved.

The addition of your export operation to the growing commercial and industrial activities in our province reaffirms your partnership with our people in our mutual quest for progress. May we therefore take this opportunity to convey our sincere congratulations and best wishes to MEPCO for your continuing commitment in serving the province as manifested by your socially responsible business endeavors.

**Mabuhay!**

Teresita S. Lazaro
**Gov. Teresita "Ning" S. Lazaro**
**Province of Laguna**

### MESSAGE

In 1993, our company, the Matsushita Electric Philippines Corporation (MEPCO), celebrated its first expansion program in Sta. Rosa, Laguna that happened to be the Air Conditioner Building. During the event, the government lauded the expansion as "a catalyst to encourage further industrial growth in the countryside." It was also projected that the new plant will help widen the range of Philippine exports. True enough, today, we take pride in celebrating the inauguration of our window-type air conditioner export. This is considered as another breakthrough not only in MEPCO's operation but also in Philippine export -- signifying our company's unwavering desire to contribute to the country's development.

On this occasion, I wish to express my profound gratitude to everyone concerned: to our people, for their continued dedication and contribution to the programs and social responsibilities of our company; to the Philippine Government, for its support and assistance; to our dealers and suppliers, for their cooperation and understanding; to our customers, for their trust and patronage; to our mother company, the Matsushita Electric Industrial Co., Ltd. of Japan (MEI), not only for being a great partner in progress but also for its faith and confidence in MEPCO.

Along with this gratitude, we take this opportunity to renew our vision and commitment to our pursuit for a greater excellence and to exceed the expectations of our partners in business, and most of all, our customers. Through our closer cooperation with MEI, we are confident that we can secure greater success for MEPCO in the years to come.

May we all continue to gain success!

Y. Kubota
**Yukiharu Kubota**
*President*
Matsushita Electric Phils. Corp.

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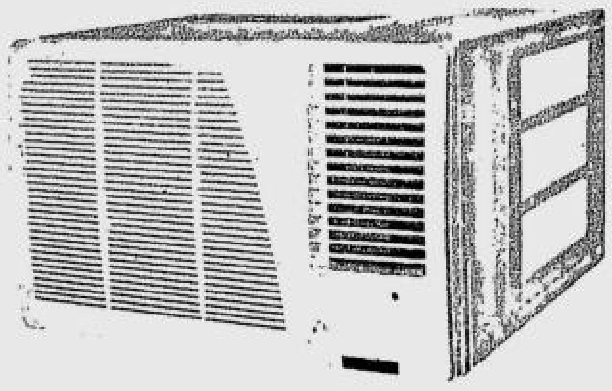

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# Gloria orders arrest of vice mayor in bombing

PRESIDENT ARROYO

COTABATO CITY—President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo ordered police and military authorities in Maguindanao to speed up the arrest of a vice mayor and eight other people suspected of involvement in the Dec. 24 bombing in Datu Piang town that killed Mayor Saudi Ampatuan and 16 of his followers.

### Visit

The President issued the order during her visit to Mamasapano town on Tuesday.

Ms Macapagal said the early arrest of the suspects would hasten the resolution of the case and would defuse tension in the said town.

Earlier this month, Judge Reno Concha of the Regional Trial Court in Maguindanao issued a warrant of arrest against ousted Datu Piang Vice Mayor Benny Boy Mokalid, Moro Islamic Liberation Front commander Darry Dagandal, alias Rambo; Ismael Makintas, Musa Tado, Roque Makalag, Edu Maulana, Bon Guiandanao, Hadi Abdulrasid and Masla Mama.

### Brains

Mokalid was suspected to be the brains behind the explosion.

The Maguindanao provincial board unseated him early last year after the Datu Piang municipal council passed a resolution recommending his ouster for chronic absenteeism.

### Ouster

Police and military investigators said his ouster could have enraged Mokalid so much that he plotted Ampatuan's assassination.

Maj. Gen. Generoso Senga, commander of the Army's 6th Infantry Division, said his troops were ready to provide back up to the police in serving the arrest order.

### Escape

Last week, five of the suspects were spotted inside an inn in Davao City but they managed to escape before the police arrived.

As this developed, Maguindanao Provincial Administrator Nori Onas denied reports that Maguindanao Gov. Andal Ampatuan has persuaded the court to issue the warrants of arrests.

He said the warrants were issued based on police investigation. *Charlie C. Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

# PNP chief says poverty biggest 'crime' of cops

CAMP OLIVAS, Pampanga—If there is a charge that all policemen are guilty of, it is "unexplained poverty" and not unexplained wealth, said Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr., Philippine National Police chief.

Ebdane opened the 12th PNP anniversary celebration here Wednesday with that banter, adding that children of policemen often hurl that accusation at their fathers.

"You can be sure that if there were an investigation of the police in connection with the issue of unexplained wealth, investigators will learn that the appropriate charge against all policemen is unexplained poverty," Ebdane said in Filipino.

Ebdane talked about "unexplained poverty" after he joked on the practice of some policemen who, apart from having a "maybahay (lawful wife)," also have "may condo, may apartment at may townhouse," referring to the mistresses kept in those types of domicile.

Asked later in an interview to explain his statement on unexplained poverty, Ebdane said, "it was just part of a joke."

A few seconds, he backtracked, saying: "But many are really affected by that (unexplained poverty) because they retired without seeing an improvement in their economic status."

Ebdane said curbing the problem within the PNP is a "continuing thrust."

"Everybody submits his income tax report, his statement of assets and liabilities (and his lifestyle is seen in) the way he goes," he said, describing how the PNP monitors the wealth and lifestyle of its members.

The November 2002 nationwide survey by the Pulse Asia showed that police corruption landed fourth in the list of crimes that respondents want the PNP to address, Director Ricardo de Leon, PNP director for police community relations, had said in an interview. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

# *OFWs hit delay in anti-laundering law changes*

PAGTIBAYIN AGAD!
NATIONAL NETWORK OF OFWS AND OFW GROUPS
PULL ON

**LEADERS** of various overseas workers' groups convene to exert pressure on Congress to pass the amendments to the anti-money laundering law. Among those who took part in the meeting were leaders of the Kaibigan ng OCWs Inc., Philippine Migrants Rights Watch, Migrant-NGO Forum, Marino and other OFW groups.

PHOTO FROM NATIONAL NETWORK OF OFWS

LEADERS of a group of overseas Filipino workers that claims a membership of at least 7 million OFWs yesterday pressed Congress to speed up the amendments to the anti-money laundering law.

In a statement, the National Network of OFWs said should international banking and financing institutions make good their threat to impose sanctions on the Philippines because of Congress' failure to amend the law, the hardest hit would be the OFWs.

The group said remittances by OFWs through international banks would be restricted and treated like laundered money should the amendments be delayed.

"We all know that majority of these lawmakers are millionaires and maybe some of them could have amassed their wealth through illegal means which explains why they continue to defer the passage of the amendments," the group's statement said.

The Paris-based Financial Action Task Force has said that the Philippines' anti-laundering law did not comply with international standards set by governments all over the world.

"We are being made to suffer for something that is not of our own doing," said the group.

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# Teachers' lenders get deadline to register

BACOLOD CITY—All private lending institutions that provide loans to teachers and avail of the Automatic Payroll Deduction Scheme (APDS) of the Department of Education have until Feb. 4 to submit documents required for their re-accreditation, said Education Undersecretary for Finance Juan Miguel Luz.

The period of notification if they passed the grade for re-accreditation will be from March 15 to 30.

Luz said the Department of Education is attempting to break the debt-culture among teachers by accrediting lending institutions that can provide assistance to teachers without making them assume large debts and to eliminate illegal and unauthorized deductions from teachers.

The 450,000 public school teachers in the country owe P8.5 billion to 115 private lending institutions that avail of the DepEd APDS. But Luz said only about one-third will remain after re-accreditation.

The DepEd has come out with a re-accreditation scheme to weed out those who charge usurious interest rates to teachers ranging from 30 to 48 percent.

The DepEd aims to bring interest rates down to 18 percent per annum, or 1.5 percent per month, Luz said.

"The DepEd is committed to cleaning up and reforming the APDS and re-accreditation is a first step at weeding out lending institutions with excessive interest rates," he said.

Private institutions that fail to meet the new criteria established by the DepEd with reference to background information and interest rates ceiling will not be allowed to avail of the APDS and will have their lending codes revoked, he said.

The Government Service Insurance System has offered a buy-out program wherein the GSIS would take over the loans of lending institutions that will not be re-accredited, he said.

An initial capital of P5 million is set for the purpose, Luz said.

The program shall be a one-time buy-out of individual loans that will be restructured for up to 36 months and will allow a teacher-member to go beyond the cap of the current GSIS salary loan program, he said.

While the Land Bank of the Philippines and the Development Bank of the Philippines have agreed to let the GSIS do the buy-out by itself, they will participate in the new program to extend new loans to teachers at lower rates, he said. *Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

# Officials of Iloilo declare Dinagyang feast a success

**By Ma. Diosa Labiste**
*PDI Visayas Bureau*

ILOILO CITY—Even before the dust from the revelry has settled, city officials have already declared this year's Dinagyang festival a resounding success.

Hotels are fully booked while the malls are enjoying brisk sales. The stores along the old commercial district in J. M. Basa and Iznart Streets have spruced up for Jan. 25 and 26, the two-day highlight of the festival.

"Ilonggos have proven that they can work together and sacrifice together. If we can do this for Dinagyang, we can do the same for other times," said Iloilo City Mayor Jerry Trenas in a news conference on Tuesday.

Dinagyang is Iloilo's premier tourist-drawing activity, of which the most awaited spectacle is the parade of soot-blackened dancers moving to the beat of the drums.

It started in 1969, a year after a replica of Sto. Niño de Cebu was brought to San Jose Church in this city.

The devotees dressed themselves as *Ati*, one of the indigenous peoples in Panay, and danced around, much like how the faithful in Kalibo town, Aklan honor the Sto. Niño.

Since then, the festival is held every year. Through the years, it has become bigger, more colorful and commercialized.

The Ati-ati festival was called Dinagyang in 1977 to differentiate it from Kalibo's Ati-atihan Festival, which had retained its hometown flavor where there was no divide between spectators and performers during the parade.

The Dinagyang, on the other hand, is a contest of choreographed dancing and movements to interpret a theme, an animal or a way of life of what is believed to be indigenous or tribal in Panay.

The Dinagyang is an expensive festival to maintain, organizers said. Groups competing in the barangay category get a subsidy of P70,000-P120,000.

# Palace 'joke' on Abaya appointment hailed

From page A1

necessarily mean that Abaya would in fact succeed Santiago, who retires on April 8.

Bunye insisted Abaya would still have to go through the normal selection process in the AFP, with the President choosing from those recommended by the Board of Generals.

In December 2001, the President announced that police general Hermogenes Ebdane would succeed Director General Leandro Mendoza as Philippine National Police chief months before Mendoza's retirement. After she was criticized for turning Mendoza into a "lame duck," the President extended his term by three more months.

## No lame duck

Santiago himself said yesterday he wouldn't be a lame-duck chief of staff.

"My pen is still powerful, I can turn down projects... I can still approve budgets... *Siga ako until April* (I will be the main man until April)," he said. "There should not be any fears about me being a lame duck."

Santiago said he was not surprised by the President's remarks. "The only ones who would be surprised are those who do not want to retire," he said.

Abaya was an original member of the Philippine Military Academy Class of 1970, where Santiago graduated, before he transferred to West Point, the US Military Academy.

Abaya admitted that he was uncomfortable when the President introduced him as the incoming AFP chief of staff.

"I thought it was just another speech, just like all other speeches I heard from other national officials," Abaya said of the President's pronouncement in Maguindanao.

The President had teased reporters in Davao City when asked if she was really considering Abaya.

JOE HARESH TANODRA/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

**WHERE the "joke" began at the Marco Polo Hotel in Davao on Tuesday when President Macapagal "teases" reporters about the appointment of Southcom chief Lt. Gen. Narciso Abaya (left) as the next AFP chief of staff.**

"I do not say it but I do not deny it," she said during a press conference at the Marco Polo Hotel.

## Revolving door

Biazon lauded the forthcoming appointment of Abaya not only because of his qualifications but also because it signaled an end to the President's controversial "revolving-door" policy: her appointment of short-term AFP chiefs of staff.

"One big factor is that Lt. Gen. Abaya is going to serve a total of 22 months which means that his term is going to span two administrations, the incumbent and the next after the 2004 elections," Biazon said.

"This will further contribute to the stability and continuity of our national security programs by ensuring that the next President will not have to install in a hurry his or her selected AFP chief in his or her administration," Biazon said.

Rep. Prospero Pichay (Surigao del Sur, Lakas), chair of the House committee on national defense, aired similar hopes.

"Barring any major boo-boo or misjudgment, he should be the last chief of staff (under Ms Macapagal) so that the long-awaited programs of the military, specially the AFP modernization program, would be implemented," Pichay said in a phone interview.

Abaya agreed that his appointment would end the controversial policy. Abaya is set to retire on Oct. 29, 2004.

"That hopefully will give me more time to institute more meaningful reforms in the AFP and I intend to do that," he said.

## Good timing

Biazon also said the timing of Abaya's appointment was "very wisely done," because it preempted "promotional campaigns" by other contenders for the post. Such campaigns had marked the selection of previous AFP chiefs of staff.

Santiago also praised the timing.

"(The early announcement) provides stability for the organization because speculation would be lessened," Santiago said.

An early announcement was in fact "normal," he said, adding that in some countries, the incoming military chief is known a year before.

Pichay said Abaya was a "very capable and very qualified officer'.'

"He has a clean image and is a good model for soldiers to emulate," Pichay added.

## A joke?

Bunye said the President's statements on Tuesday were not categorical.

"You know that could happen. I could refer to Anthony Taberna as the next chief of staff . . . as the next press secretary," said Bunye, referring to the dzMM reporter who regularly covers Malacañang.

Asked if he meant that the President was just joking about Abaya's appointment, Bunye replied, "No, no. We're saying he's a strong contender and he's very qualified for the position."

He also tried to make light of the implications of the President's premature announcement on the morale of the other generals who are hoping to succeed Santiago.

Aside from Abaya, the other contenders for the top military post are Army chief Lt. Gen. Gregorio Camiling, Deputy Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Ernesto Carolina and Vice Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Rodolfo Garcia.

"All of the officers in the AFP are professionals. And I think they will act accordingly," Bunye said. ***With reports from Gerald Lacuarta and Juliet Javellana; and Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

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# *US body armor for RP soldiers for rent*

**By Martin P. Marfil**

THE 500 pieces of armor vests to be turned over by the US military to Filipino soldiers today would be on "loan" and would be returned after one year.

The vests will be used by AFP personnel as "force protection" while on field missions and while undergoing counterterrorism operations with their US counterparts in Mindanao.

According to the Department of National Defense, the vests' estimated cost is around $50,000 but the vests would be rented by the Philippine government for $5,000, representing the use and processing cost incurred by the US government.

"They would be returned after one year or if we want it, we could offer to buy it in exchange for goods and services," Ros Manlangit, chief of the DND's public information office said.

He added that if the vests are lost or damaged, the Philippine government will have to pay for them.

Asked why the vests were "rented," Manlangit said that the DND wanted to test them first before making a decision on whether to buy them or not.

In a press statement, Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes said that the transfer of the items signifies the "sincere commitment" of both nations to the Mutual Logistics Support Agreement signed last November.

The items were transported from a US Army facility in South Korea on board a Korean C-130 cargo plane, a service provided by that government to US missions.

After the turnover, to be held in Camp Aguinaldo, the vests would be temporarily stored at the AFP Logistics Command before being shipped to Mindanao.

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# 'More numerous' war games between RP, US in the works

**By Tonette Orejas**
*PDI Central Luzon Desk*

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—"More numerous" war games between the Philippines and the United States are in the works, according to the executive director of the Presidential Commission on the Visiting Forces Agreement (VFACom).

Foreign Undersecretary Amado Valdez said Wednesday that at least 11 small-scale military exercises would be held this year in Luzon, and that several planned big exercises were due for approval.

First off is the month-long Balance Piston exercise set to start on Jan. 27 in Clark and Bulacan with 272 Americans and 221 Filipinos participating, he said.

Valdez refused to say exactly how many US troops were joining this year's war games, but confirmed an increase in their number.

He stressed, however, that the increase was not related to the looming US-led attack on Iraq. "They can't be exercising now and dealing [at the same time] with Iraq," he said.

Valdez said more war games were being scheduled because the Philippine and US armed forces had seen the need for more joint activities as "follow-up of previous exercises."

He said these exercises were helping "acquaint the Armed Forces of the Philippines with the latest in military equipment." But the US military, he said, was "benefiting more," mainly from the Filipinos' ground combat experience.

VFA-related exercises resumed in 1999. Except for the annual large-scale Balikatan that lasted for almost two months in Central Luzon and more than six months in Mindanao last year, the small events take three weeks or less.

Valdez clarified that the Bayanihan exercises scheduled in February in Zamboanga City were "more of training" than VFA-related.

Earlier, Brig. Gen. Donald Wurster, commander of the Special Operations Command in the Pacific, described the Bayanihan as "security assistance training."

## Green Army

Valdez said he was proposing that Basilan island be turned into a "training center of the world's Green Army."

He said this unit would specialize in disaster response, emergency medical assistance and other life-saving and environment-rehabilitation tasks.

"[Basilan] cannot forever be the playground of the Abu Sayyaf," he said.

Valdez said he was expecting the US military to make a "practical response" to some needs of the Philippine government in exchange for the "risks it is willing to take in hosting the exercises."

"I'm trying to redefine the VFA to be more responsive in the non-military aspect," he said.

Valdez also said the inter-agency VFACom was working to institutionalize its monitoring system.

He said it was profiling communities near the exercise sites and planning inter-cultural seminars between the residents and the visiting troops.

## R and R

In Olongapo City, members of an Amerasian group have renewed opposition to the arrival of US troops in Mindanao for the Balance Piston 03-5 exercise this month.

According to Marissa Navidad, coordinator of the National League of Amerasians (NLA), the US troops will again give life to prostitution in the country.

The NLA is composed of some 300 Amerasians from the cities of Manila, Angeles and Olongapo.

*With a report from Allan Macatuno, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

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# US pays reparation . . .

From page A1

months after the choppers' emergency landing on Aug. 2, 2002.

Explaining the delay, Valdez said it took the VFACom some time to evaluate the damage and submit a corresponding report to the US government. He requested the INQUIRER not to identify the farmers who, he said, were "properly compensated on the basis of the findings of the commission's investigation."

He refused to say whether it was the first time the US government paid compensation for damage incurred in relation to the VFA.

A source at the Air Transportation Office told the INQUIRER that the four CH-53 choppers, tailed by a C-130 cargo plane, were bound for Basco in Batanes to refuel before heading back to a military base in Japan on the same day.

A VFACom official said the five aircraft had taken part in the naval exercise Cooperation Afloat Readiness Training (Caràt) at the Subic Bay Freeport some 100 kilometers south of Sta. Cruz.

Carat, a joint military exercise between Filipino and American soldiers, was held under the VFA amid protests from leftist groups who said there was no room for the US military presence in the country in view of the closure of the US bases in September 1991.

## Unable to plant

Millet Morante, chair of the militant group Kilusan para sa Pambansang Demokrasya (KPD), said the farmers were unable to plant for the succeeding crop season because of the delayed compensation.

She said two of the farmers, whom the KPD assisted in filing the compensation claim, had to rely on loans to continue production.

A KPD fact-finding mission had found that the emergency landing caused panic among the residents of the farming village. Children also reported seeing the helicopters drop three "bombs" off the coast of the South China Sea.

But a VFACom official said these were not bombs but fuel tanks that had to be unloaded to prevent the aircraft from bursting into flames in case of an emergency landing.

It was not known if the fuel tanks were retrieved.

The KPD findings were not made public. But the farmers earlier told the INQUIRER that the emergency landing destroyed the rice crop in a 5-hectare plain.

The farmers said the choppers' rotors, spinning for more than an hour while the aircraft were parked, stirred winds that uprooted the crop or broke rice stalks heavy with grain.

Several patches in the farms were also scorched by the heat of the choppers' engines.

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# Ex-Red leaders killed: Mabilangan, Balweg, Lagman...

**By Minerva Generalao**
*PDI Research*

LEOPOLDO "Ka Hector" Mabilangan. Conrado Balweg. Filemon "Popoy" Lagman.

Like Rolly Kintanar, all three were felled by assassins' bullets. Like Kintanar, all three were known leaders with former ties to the Communist Party of the Philippines and the New People's Army. And just like Kintanar, all three are believed to have fallen at the hands of their former comrades in arms.

Mabilangan was shot dead in front of the parish church of Sto. Tomas, Batangas, on April 3, 1994. Hours after he was killed, his family and the police charged that Mabilangan's former comrades in the NPA were most likely responsible for his killing.

Mabilangan, who was only 34 when he was killed, was the former spokesperson of the Quezon-based NPA Banahaw Command. He surrendered to the authorities just a year before he was shot and was among the first rebel leaders who signified their intention to take advantage of the amnesty proclamation signed by President Fidel Ramos.

When Mabilangan's right hand man, Eduardo Borromeo, was killed three years later, his former colleagues were also said to be responsible.

## Rebel priest

Former rebel priest Balweg was killed on Dec. 31, 1999 in Abra. Initial reports said he was killed not just by a former comrade but also by his own younger brother, Jovencio, from whom he was ideologically estranged. Jovencio, also known as Ka Rudy, was reportedly the leader of the NPA's Agustin Begnalen Command based in the Cordillera.

Jovencio had said in a televised interview with "The Probe Team" on GMA Channel 7 that the decision to kill his elder brother was made collectively by the NPA.

He said it took them 13 years before they could finally kill Balweg "because (we) never had the chance." He cleared Jose Ma. Sison, political consultant of the National Democratic Front, who was accused of ordering the assassination of Balweg.

Last April, however, another brother, Dr. Bienvinido Balweg, said that Balweg's murder was not a case of Abel being killed by Cain. He said that Jovencio did not order Conrado's killing nor did the killing himself.

## Labor leader

On Feb. 6, 2001, communist-rebel-turned-labor-leader Filemon "Popoy" Lagman was killed on the UP Diliman campus. Two years later, his killers remain unknown.

Police authorities have theorized that a right-wing group fiercely loyal to ousted President Joseph Estrada could have been behind the assassination.

Militant groups also believe that Lagman's death was part of a destabilization campaign pulled off by allies of the deposed President.

Sison, who is better known as the founding chair of the CPP, said that one group in the leftist movement was most likely to have carried out Lagman's murder. This is the group Lagman himself was credited for founding: the Alex Boncayao Brigade, which is believed to have pulled off several daring killings of police and military officials in urban areas.

A faction of the ABB led by Nilo dela Cruz broke away from Lagman allegedly after a bitter dispute over the division of money that Lagman reportedly got in connection with the controversial PEA-Amari deal during the Ramos administration.

But De la Cruz denied that his group was responsible for the murder and points to the CPP and the NPA, which still recognize Sison as their leader, as the most likely culprit. Lagman led the breakaway from the main body of the revolutionary movement in the mid-1990s when he could not convince the CPP-NPA to shift to urban guerrilla warfare from the Maoist strategy of surrounding the cities from the countryside. That split greatly weakened the CPP-NPA, and this could have made Lagman the enemy No. 1 in the eyes of Sison's faction.

De la Cruz pointed out that among the leftist revolutionary groups, only Sison's group has shown the ruthlessness to go after former comrades in arms who went against it. The CPP-NPA is believed to have conducted a bloody purge of its ranks that left dozens of suspected military agents dead in the 1980s.

# Kintanar vital witness to Nida Blanca murder

**By Michael Lim Ubac**

ROLLY Kintanar was a vital witness in the Nov. 7, 2001 murder of actress Nida Blanca because he led authorities to Philip Medel.

Were it not for Kintanar, Medel could not have been known to authorities, said State Prosecutor Mark Jalandoni of the Department of Justice, one in a three-man panel tasked to conduct a preliminary investigation of the murder case.

"He provided a breakthrough in the investigation then being led by PNP's Task Force Marsha," said the justice official.

Based on his one-page affidavit dated Aug. 5, 2002 which was affirmed on Aug. 12, Kintanar reiterated his statement that Medel "voluntarily surrendered to the authorities in connection with his participation in the Nida Blanca murder case.

"I am the same Rolly Kintanar, the author of the letter dated Nov. 11, 2001, addressed to Hon. Commissioner Andrea Domingo of the Bureau of Immigration and Deportation," he said.

The letter had been endorsed by the National Bureau of Investigation and the Philippine National Police Criminal Investigation and Detection Group to the justice department as evidence.

The DOJ panel later marked the letter exhibit "Y." Jalandoni did not provide reporters with a copy of the letter. But the justice officials disclosed that the letter narrated how Medel accidentally told Kintanar during a drinking session of his desire to surrender to authorities. Kintanar, then a consultant for Domingo, confided Medel's confession to Domingo, who in turn, notified then PNP chief Leandro Mendoza.

This led to the arrest of Medel and, later his indictment for murder by the DOJ, along with Blanca's husband Roger Lawrence Strunk.

But Jalandoni said Kintanar's death would not affect the resolution of the Nida Blanca case.

Jalandoni told reporters that Kintanar's death would not invalidate his testimony.

"We must remember that Mr. Kintanar had affirmed his affidavit, so it will be considered as part of the evidence in resolving the case," he said.

# NPA reached its peak under Kintanar command

From page A1

get hundreds of firearms smuggled from China.

In March 1988 he was arrested in an apartment in San Juan, Metro Manila. He plotted his own escape from detention in Camp Crame. He befriended the jail warden until the latter invited him to attend a party outside the jail in November. At the party, Kintanar and wife walked to a waiting car and fled.

## Cosmetic surgery

After a cosmetic surgery and a significant weight gain, Kintanar's appearance changed to a degree that the military only recognized him by looking into his eyes. And so in August 1991, in Makati Medical Center, Kintanar along with his wife, Gloria "Joy" Jopson, CPP finance commission secretary, were captured. They were charged with rebellion and falsification of documents.

In September 1992 Kintanar was released on bail as part of President Fidel Ramos' peace overtures to the rebels. He was expelled from the CPP over ideological differences with Jose Ma. Sison, CPP founding chair.

Kintanar became an entrepreneur, formed cooperatives, worked at the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority during the Estrada administration and helped his uncle Simeon Kintanar win a seat in the House of Representatives.

Congressman Kintanar said his nephew was among those who convinced him to run for Congress in Cebu's second district to help the poor in their district. He said Rolly gave him protection during the last elections.

Before his death, Kintanar was the security consultant of the Bureau of Immigration and the National Electrification Administration.

In 1996 he formally joined the Lakas-NUCD, a move severely criticized by his former comrades: now party list Rep. Satur Ocampo; Rafael Baylosis, now member of the NDF working committee in the peace panel; and the late Filemon "Popoy" Lagman, whose killing remains unsolved.

A day before Lagman was killed in February 2001, Sison accused Kintanar of being one of three breakaway communist leaders acting as tactical planners in a plot by the Estrada administration to kill the exiled communist leader.

His name made it to the news again last year as a witness to the killing of actress Nida Blanca when suspect Philip Medel wrote Immigration Commissioner Andrea Domingo to ask Kintanar to turn himself in so that the former NPA chief could testify against the actress' American husband.

Kintanar's uncle, former Armed Forces Intelligence chief Galileo Kintanar, was also dragged into the investigation after it was discovered that he paid for Medel's rent and that he was allegedly responsible for the recantation made by the suspect.

Supt. Augusto Marquez, Regional Intelligence and Investigation Division chief in Central Visayas, said he wanted to get in touch with Kintanar last week to get his advice on how to deal with the insurgency problem.

But Marquez caught up with the security preparations for the Sinulog, which culminated last Sunday, that he was not able to see Kintanar, who was in Cebu for the festivities.

"When I learned he was killed (yesterday), I was shocked. We even planned to set a meeting with him within the next few weeks," Marquez told the INQUIRER.

"[Kintanar] could really help us because he knew the ins and outs (of the rebel movement)," he said. "[Kintanar] was also serious in helping the government."

Kintanar's vast experience as an NPA leader would have been useful as database for "academic purposes," said Supt. Jonathan Miano, the Philippine National Police chief for Human Resource Doctrine Development.

Miano confirmed that he had suggested to Marquez to get in touch with Kintanar to get some first-hand information about his experience in the rebel movement.

Miano said he had met with Kintanar and found him a good person. "You could not even tell that he was once an NPA leader because he was very nice," he said in Pilipino. *With a report from Rianne C. Tecson and Kathy I. Navarro, PDI Visayas Bureau*

# Lightning strikes twice for tragic Joy

From page A1

lice.

The arresting PC men also took the Jopsons' 4-year old son then, Nonoy, who became the youngest political detainee on record, and his *yaya*. Joy was spared as she was still in the hospital, having given birth to their second child, Maria Victoria Scarlet.

Edjop later escaped. But months later, he was killed by soldiers in September 1982 during a raid in Davao City.

According to reports, Edjop was summarily executed as a "birthday gift to Marcos."

## Catechist

Edjop's death did not diminish Joy's activism. Military news releases reported that a decade later after her first husband's death, she continued to be active in the underground movement and that she had become a secretary of the Communist Party of the Philippines' National Finance Commission.

She had gone a long way from her student activism in the Student Catholic Action where she was a volunteer catechist. She was a graduate of the exclusive Catholic school for girls, St. Theresa's College, Quezon City.

When she was captured in 1991, she carried, along with Kintanar, a P1.5-million reward on her head.

## Captured, escaped

Joy was first arrested with Kintanar, who had then become her second husband, by military agents in a rebel safehouse in March 1988, but seven months later they escaped from the Camp Crame stockade during a birthday party for the senior warden.

After two years and a half in hiding, Joy and Kintanar were captured at the Makati Medical Center on Aug. 6, 1991, where Kintanar had sought treatment for high blood pressure.

The military nearly failed to recognize Joy because of the changes in her appearance.

## Other relatives

In his native Cebu City, Kintanar's relatives were in shock.

"I was jolted by the news. It was such a loss because Rolly was a good man," said Cebu Rep. Simeon Kintanar.

He said Rolly never mentioned about any threats to his life when they had lunch together on Saturday. The former rebel leader was in Cebu to attend the Sinulog festival celebrating the feast of the Child Jesus.

Rolly went back to Manila on Sunday afternoon after watching the Sinulog grand parade.

"We went to my house and (we) talked. He never mentioned anything about receiving death threats," said Congressman Kintanar.

He recalled that they talked about politics and the plight of the poor in the second district, which he represents in Congress.

Cebu City Councilor Vicente Kintanar, Rolly's second cousin, said he too could not believe the news that Rolly was killed.

He said Rolly visited him whenever he was in Cebu. He said he was not aware of Rolly's enemies, if any.

Rolly's aunt, Fidela Kintanar, 79, said she was surprised why her nephew was killed because "he was a very good person."

She said Rolly had been very respectful of her.

Although he belonged to the Kintanar clan from Argao, Cebu, Rolly grew up in Kidapawan, Cotabato, where his father Florentino got married.

## Trained by Corpus

He was only 18 and a freshman student of the Ateneo de Davao when he was recruited to join the New People's Army in the 1970s.

He trained in Isabela under Victor Corpus who was then the NPA training officer. Corpus, now a colonel, heads the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

Retired Maj. Gen. Santos Gabison Jr., former Armed Forces Visayas Command chief, said Corpus trained Kintanar in Isabela in the 1970s.

Gabison said Corpus had described Rolly as a very determined person.

Once, during an operation, Rolly reportedly had difficulty walking due to an injury but was determined to join the mission.

But Rolly broke away from the CPP-NPA in 1992 following ideological differences with CPP founder, Jose Ma. Sison *(See story on Page A1.) With reports Rianne C.Tecson and Kathy I.Navarro, PDI Visayas Bureau*

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# MILF blows whistle on Irish priest's killer

From page A1

Eid Kabalu, MILF spokesperson, said Dimasangkay Dimauga surrendered to military authorities in Lanao del Sur on Tuesday—not as the killer of Fr. Rufus Halley, however, but as an MILF leader.

"But he was never an MILF leader," Kabalu said.

He said the military at first had no inkling that Dimauga was wanted for the death of Halley.

Maj. Johnny Macanas, spokesperson of the Army's 4th Infantry Division based in Cagayan de Oro City, confirmed Dimauga's surrender.

But Macanas belittled the claim that Dimauga was no rebel leader. "Every time a band of MILF surrenders, the MILF leadership automatically disowns them," he said.

Macanas said the 35-year-old Dimauga and 56 of his followers in the MILF surrendered to Maj. Francisco Balabat, chief of the 67th Infantry Battalion in Lanao del Sur. They also turned in their weapons, he said.

"We have no information yet whether he had a hand in the murder of Father Halley. He and his men are still undergoing interrogation," Macanas said in a radio interview.

Until the allegations are proven, Macanas said, Dimauga and his men would receive assistance from the government because they had surrendered.

FATHER RUFUS HALLEY

The police questioned Dimauga yesterday.

## Motorcycle priest

On the afternoon of Aug. 28, 2001, Halley was driving his motorcycle home from Balabagan town to his Our Lady of Peace parish church in Malabang, Lanao del Sur, when gunmen in ski masks aboard a truck blocked his path near the remote village of Diamaro.

The group tried to abduct the parish priest—known to Christian and Muslim in Malabang alike as Father Popong—but he fought back. When he tried to flee, one of the armed men shot him.

The rest of the group then took turns shooting him.

Kabalu yesterday said that a subsequent MILF investigation of the killing showed that Dimauga was the leader of the group. Immediately after the killing, authorities had tagged "suspected Moro rebels" as the suspects.

Halley was a beloved figure in different parts of Mindanao, where he had served as missionary for 20 years. At his funeral Mass, more than 3,000 people showed up, including many Muslims in traditional white mourning attire.

The MILF has waged a 24-year armed campaign to set up an Islamic state in Mindanao. It is currently involved in peace talks with the government. *With a report from AFP*

# Ex-NPA chief slain in QC; Joma blamed

From page A1

serving as a security consultant. The group had already asked for their bill when the shooting started.

Initially, Beltran and Ruiz denied they were with Kintanar but they were seen sharing the same table.

Mac Peña, a waiter at the restaurant, was busy serving a customer when out of the corner of his eye, he spotted one of the gunmen around five meters away from Kintanar's table. "I heard three shots but I wasn't able to see his face. He was around 5'7", wearing a cap and shades."

When the gunman felled Kintanar, another approached the former NPA chief and pumped more bullets into his body. The two suspects, along with two other companions, then calmly walked out of the restaurant.

Kintanar was seated at a corner of the restaurant, his back toward the entrance. He frequented Kamameshi for lunch with friends.

Beltran and Ruiz were also hit as they tried to draw their own firearms. Waiters and bystanders brought the two to the East Avenue Medical Center. They are out of danger.

Customers rushed out of the restaurant, leaving their meals unfinished.

Amid uneaten Japanese dishes of raw fish and half-empty glasses, police recovered from the crime scene 12 slugs from a Super .38 cal. pistol and .45 cal. automatic. Blood was splattered in different parts of the floor amid broken glasses and beer bottles. The restaurant's glass was broken by bystanders who rushed out to bring the injured to the hospital.

## Clutch bag

Shocked waiters said they had noticed the four assailants walk into the restaurant and sit down. The four did not order any food but the waiters said one of them carried a clutch bag.

Two hours after Kintanar was shot dead, his ashen-faced wife, Joy, arrived at the scene of the murder. *(Story on Page A1.)*

Dressed in black, Joy Kintanar stayed for a brief 15 minutes and talked mostly to callers on her cell phone. "Rolly's dead," she told one of the callers, while slumping on a chair and covering her face with her hands.

Joy refused to give a statement to the media but had a brief conversation with Senior Insp. Rodolfo Jaraza, chief of the Central Police District's Intelligence Unit.

Jaraza immediately recognized the former NPA chief. "It's really him. I had breakfast with him once with (former Philippine National Police) Director General (Leandro) Mendoza."

Kintanar's body was brought to the Philippine National Police Crime Laboratory for autopsy at around 4 p.m.

## 10 gunshot wounds

Kintanar sustained 10 gunshot wounds, including fatal ones in the heart and lungs, said Supt. Vladimir Villaseñor, chief of the medico-legal division of the PNP Crime Laboratory.

Hours before his ambush, Kintanar dropped by at the Firearms and Explosives Division (FED) office in Camp Crame at around 11 a.m. to follow up on the renewal of a friend's gun license.

"He was here to get the plastic card license of a friend. The card was not available yet, so he left shortly after. I was not around at that time," said Supt. Mario Sanga, chief of the FED's storage division, quoting his staff.

Sanga said "the last time he (Kintanar) was here was five months ago." The Kintanar couple owned a security agency, according to the family friend.

A Palace official said Kintanar was a "consultant" of the PNP and the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), but was drawing salary from the Bureau of Immigration.

Senior. Supt. Napoleon Castro, director of the Central Police District, said he had formed a team to investigate the killing of Kintanar. Three other teams were assigned to follow up the case.

## Suspects

Chief Supt. Roberto Delfin, PNP director for intelligence, said in a TV interview that Kintanar told him a week ago about threats to his life. Delfin said a CPP-NPA insider had told Kintanar that he was marked for "liquidation."

Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes also told a news conference that "intelligence reports point to the NPA as the perpetrator of the crime."

Lt. Col. Jonas Sumagaysay, operations chief of the Intelligence Service of the AFP, said Kintanar had been marked for liquidation by the CPP-NPA after Sison branded him a traitor.

But Bayan Muna party-list Rep. Satur Ocampo, former spokesperson of the communist-led National Democratic Front, said he did not want to speculate on who was behind the killing of his former comrade.

But Ocampo said he was not aware of any order from the CPP to kill Kintanar. "As far as I know, there has been no talk about any order or operation from the Left to eliminate those who are identified with the RJs (rejectionists)," Ocampo said in a phone interview. "Even at the height of the split, there was no statement to physically eliminate them."

The NPA has been waging a rural-based rebellion for 34 years, one of Asia's longest. It reached its peak under late dictator Ferdinand Marcos, who was ousted in 1986, but has been weakened over the years by battle setbacks, factionalism and loss of popular support.

The guerrillas intensified their attacks nationwide after Washington last year included the CPP and NPA on its list of foreign terrorist organizations.

Ocampo said Kintanar's job of providing security and intelligence services could have presented "complications in his life," which led to his death.

The Bayan Muna representative noted that Kintanar became a close-in security for Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. when he ran in the 1998 presidential election. He also became a consultant to Immigration Commissioner Andrea Domingo and even figured in the slaying of actress Nida Blanca.

But presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said Kintanar could have been killed by the NPA.

Reports indicate that "Kintanar has always been under constant threat since he turned his back on the New People's Army," Bunye said.

Kintanar stood up to Sison but did not join the Revolutionary Proletarian Army-Alex Boncayao Brigade (RPA-ABB), a group that also broke away from the CPP-NPA, according to RPA-ABB chief Carapali Lualhati.

But Kintanar continued to advise the RPA-ABB and helped push for the peace negotiations between the group and the government, Lualhati said.

Lualhati said the CPP-NPA was the likely suspect in the killing of Kintanar who, according to him, had been on the CPP-NPA order of battle for leaving the revolutionary movement.

PNP Crime Lab Chief Villaseñor said Kintanar "died from hemorrhagic shock resulting from wounds in the trunk. The fatal wounds were in the heart and lungs."

He said the bullet that entered his left breast pierced through his left and right lungs, and the heart.

Kintanar had wounds below the left shoulder bone, in the left breast and left midsection and below the umbilical cord. He also had wounds in the left and right arms, left portion of the back, the backs of his left and right thighs; and the smallest toe in the right foot, according to Villaseñor.

Medico-legal officers recovered four slugs that did not exit the body. These were "comparable to the slugs" of a .45 cal. automatic, Villaseñor said. ***With reports from Jhunnex Napallacan and Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau***

**RECAPTURED** at the Makati Medical Center in August 1991, Rolly Kintanar had sought treament for high blood pressure.

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# Braganza: I can work under a tree

From page A1

"I can work anywhere, as long as I can be efficient, and I can serve the President," Hernani Braganza yesterday said.

Braganza described as gossip reports that he was feuding with Malacañang Chief of Staff Rigoberto Tiglao over the use of Ferdinand Marcos' bedroom, which had been converted into an office for the press secretary. Tiglao was press secretary and concurrent presidential spokesperson until he quit early this month to be full-time chief of staff.

Braganza also denied that proximity to the source of power was the cause of the rift with Tiglao.

"With the technology, and with the kind of leadership that the President is exercising, you don't need to be near the President," Braganza said.

An INQ7.net source said Tiglao and Braganza sent memos to each other after Tiglao was locked out from his office last week.

The key to Tiglao's office, which used to be Marcos' bedroom, was taken by a staff member of Braganza.

Tiglao made himself scarce yesterday. His chief of staff, Carlos Rivera, refused to answer phone calls.

**PRESS SECRETARY** Hernani Braganza is sworn into office by President Macapagal on Thursday. At left are his wife Stella and youngest son Iolo. EDWIN BACASMAS

An INQ7.net source said Tiglao panicked when he learned that the story had leaked to the press.

Braganza, meanwhile, had to deal with real leaks—the leaks from the roof over his office at the Arlegui House.

It may take six months to have the leaking roof repaired. "I have asked the carpenter to fast-track their work," he told Malacañang newsmen during a chat at the Palace sentry.

Braganza played smart with media, answering questions alternately off the record and on the record, contradicting himself in the process.

"For the record, I have not recommended anyone to any position," he said. He also denied there was a queue of press undersecretary wannabes at the Arlegui House whom he had promised a post at the Office of the Press Secretary.

It's not true, he said of the report, daring a reporter to name names.

But Rocky Nazareno, an INQUIRER reporter who was earlier reported to have been named press undersecretary, is a real person, according to Braganza.

Nazareno will reportedly handle legislative affairs.

Ruben Manahan, a longtime staff member of Braganza, will be named press undersecretary for print, according to a source.

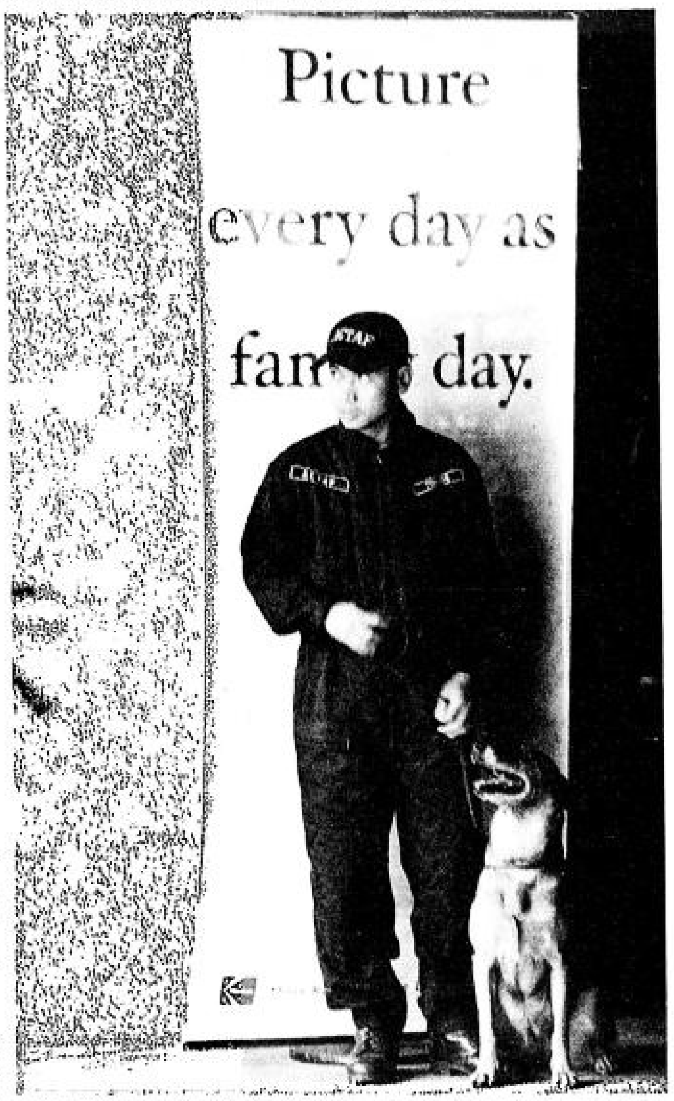
Ed Malay, a spokesperson of former President Fidel V. Ramos, is being groomed to be press undersecretary for broadcast, the source also said.

Ed Joaquin, who served as general manager of the Philippine Tourism Authority (PTA) during the term of Ramos, is also joining Braganza as press undersecretary.

But yesterday, Braganza vehemently denied any appointments had been made. He said he spent his third day in office threshing out internal matters, including the plantilla for the OPS.

He also denied he was bringing along at least 18 new personnel into the OPS.

The OPS is allowed to have undersecretaries but the number was slashed to two due to budget constraints. Carmen Suva and Roberto Capco are occupying the two positions.



**THIS IS** family day? Soldier and doggie make an odd couple. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

# Church admits 'tensions' between El Shaddai, other groups and parish priests

From page A1

sources from the parishes. The parish priests usually feel shortchanged," he said in a speech titled "Renewal Movements and the Evangelization of Families."

He said the uneasy relationship was a result of the fact that the renewal groups "usually transcend parish boundaries" and "do not fall under the control of the parish priest."

However, Bacani said there was ground for a solution.

"Tensions there will always be in the Church, but the tensions can be creative and not destructive if parish priests transcend a parochial mentality when it comes to thinking of the Church and its true good," he said.

As for the leaders of the renewal groups, his advice to them was to make "proper use" of their "charismatic gifts."

"There will always be the temptation for leaders of renewal movements to act in isolation from the hierarchy while at the same time acting as authoritarian leaders in their own communities, appearing more like dictators than servant leaders," he pointed out. "Ecclesiastical union is harmed by such attitudes."

## Failure

Archbishop Orlando Quevedo, president of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines, also cited the Church's other difficulties.

In a briefing at the sidelines of the five-day world meeting, Quevedo admitted that the growing tendency of Filipinos to favor divorce, live-in unions and same-sex marriages indicated a "failed" evangelization.

"I think the church failed," he said. "It failed to communicate the Christian messages in the way ordinary people understand."

He said some priest, in delivering sermons, were putting much emphasis on grand theological concepts hardly understood by the common folk.

Quevedo was reacting to a recent survey where 36 percent of the respondents said they preferred divorce as a solution to troubled marriages, and to calls by women's and gay groups for the Church to recognize same-sex marriages.

But in the face of these trends, Quevedo said, the Church must strengthen its stance, no matter how unpopular, on key moral issues. He said certain things were "non-negotiable in the Church," and these were its "moral teachings."

"The Church cannot base its teachings on the basis of polls," he said, adding:

"If [it does], the majority will win" and the people will then clamor for the "amendment" of the 10 commandments.

Manila Auxiliary Bishop Socrates Villegas told reporters that "moral norms are not determined by statistics" but by "the commands that we have received from God and following our conscience [and] our nature."

He urged Catholics who believe in the "sanctity of marriage" to "make a stand" against the growing popularity of divorce in the country.

But Fr. Joselito Jopson, vice chair of the media committee of the world meeting, said survey results could be manipulated "overnight" by people with vested interests.

Still, Quevedo said the Church was addressing its failure to effectively connect with the faithful by initiating certain changes.

Instead of the people going to the priests, he said, "the priests are now going to the villages ... working and staying there with them."

In his talk on the family and its "struggle for justice," Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. said that in view of the changing norms and the attacks on the family, the Church should "faithfully and unhesitatingly" stick to its teachings, "in season and out of season."

## Hatred

But Filipino homosexuals accused the Church of fanning "anti-gay hatred."

Oscar Atadero, a spokesperson for Progay Philippines, said Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin's attack on homosexuality was unwarranted, and pointed out that many members of "the third sex" were productive members of the Christian community.

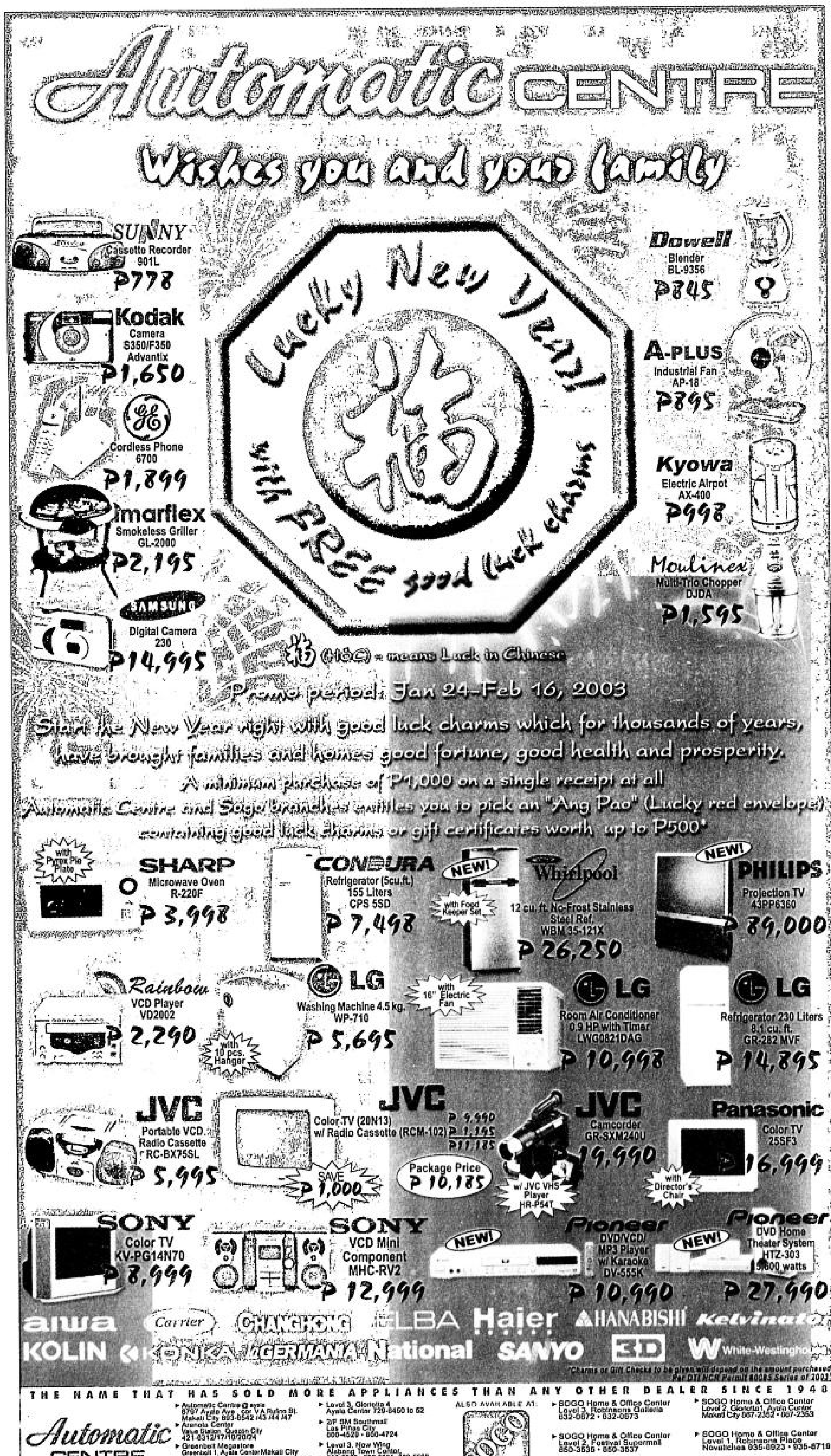
Sin, speaking before the world meeting on Wednesday, said the basic family structure was being "put into question by proponents of same-sex marriages." But Atadero told Agence France Presse: "It would have been OK if they had only excluded us [from the meeting]. But the Church cannot leave well enough alone and is attacking homosexuals as [being] against the family, which is not true."

"We don't have to toe the line of the Catholic Church, the Vatican is not the Church," he said, and likened Christian gays to "Jésus outside the gates." "Jesus was at first also excluded, before he was accepted," he said.

Atadero also said homosexuals were "not calling into question the existence of the family or staging a rebellion," but were merely asserting that they should be given "the same love and legal rights that other children of God have."

Progay, the umbrella organization of gay groups nationwide, had initially wanted to join the conference, but was blocked by organizers who only wanted traditional families represented.

The group is considering organizing an alternative meeting of gay families in the wake of the Catholic snub, Atadero said.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# SPORTS

Editor Al S. Mendoza ⊕ Assistant Editor Edwin M. Villanueva

**PSC celebrates 13th anniversary**
THE PHILIPPINE Sports Commission is celebrating today its 13th year anniversary with games in basketball, badminton, bowling and volleyball on tap among PSC employees. "This is a celebration for the PSC workforce," said PSC chair Eric Buhain.

## AUSTRALIAN OPEN

# Agassi routs Ferreira, enters final

## *It's Serena vs Venus*

**By John Pye**
*AP Sports Writer*

**MELBOURNE, Australia—A Williams slam is guaranteed.**

Serena Williams moved within one win of her "Serena Slam" when she advanced to a fourth consecutive Grand Slam championship match against older sister Venus.

Even if Serena doesn't win the Australian Open, the Williams will hold all four majors.

Top-ranked Serena almost didn't make it. Hobbling with blisters on her right foot, she saved two match points against Kim Clijsters to move into the final at Melbourne Park.

Andre Agassi breezed into his fourth Australian Open final on a 6-2, 6-2, 6-3 demolition of veteran South African Wayne Ferreira that improved his record to 38-3 at Melbourne Park.

Agassi, winner here in 1995, 2001 and 2002, broke twice in each set and clinch the match in 1 hour, 28 minutes with a forehand winner at the net.

The 32-year-old American, now 11-0 against Ferreira including 10 straight-sets wins, will meet the winner of Friday's semifinal between Andy Roddick and Rainer Schuettler in the final on Sunday.

Ninth-seeded Roddick outlasted Moroccan Younes El Aynaoui 21-19 in the longest fifth set in Grand Slam tennis on Wednesday night. It lasted 2 hours, 23 minutes and the match ended in a minute shy of five hours.

Serena Williams, who beat Venus in last year's French Open, Wimbledon and U.S. Open finals, saved two match points and rallied from two breaks down in the third set Thursday before reeling off six consecutive games to beat Clijsters 4-6, 6-3, 7-5 in her semifinal.

She looked less comfortable at Melbourne Park than Venus, who overwhelmed another Belgian, Justine Henin-Hardenne, 6-3, 6-3.

"Venus is actually playing a little better than me at this tournament," Serena said. "I've just got to pull something out of my back pocket to be able to go onto the next level."

Their winning celebrations were similar Thursday but had a different tempo.

Venus flashed a jubilant smile and did a quicker-version of her victory pirouette before she ran to the bleachers to link hands with her mom, Oracene.

"It's so exciting. You know, I've struggled and failed, done everything but get this close to winning the Australian Open," said Venus. Of another final showdown, she added: "Four in a row is real nice. ... At least, I'm in a position to be a winner."

Serena dropped her racket as Clijsters' backhand missed on match point and shuffled over to her mother and Venus mouthing, "I can't believe it. I can't believe it."

"I'm a fighter," said Serena, who won despite her amazing 65 errors. "I didn't come all these miles to lose."

It's the first time in the final at Melbourne Park for each of the Williams girls.

Serena withdrew last year after injuring her ankle in a warm-up tournament and Venus was ousted in the quarterfinals.

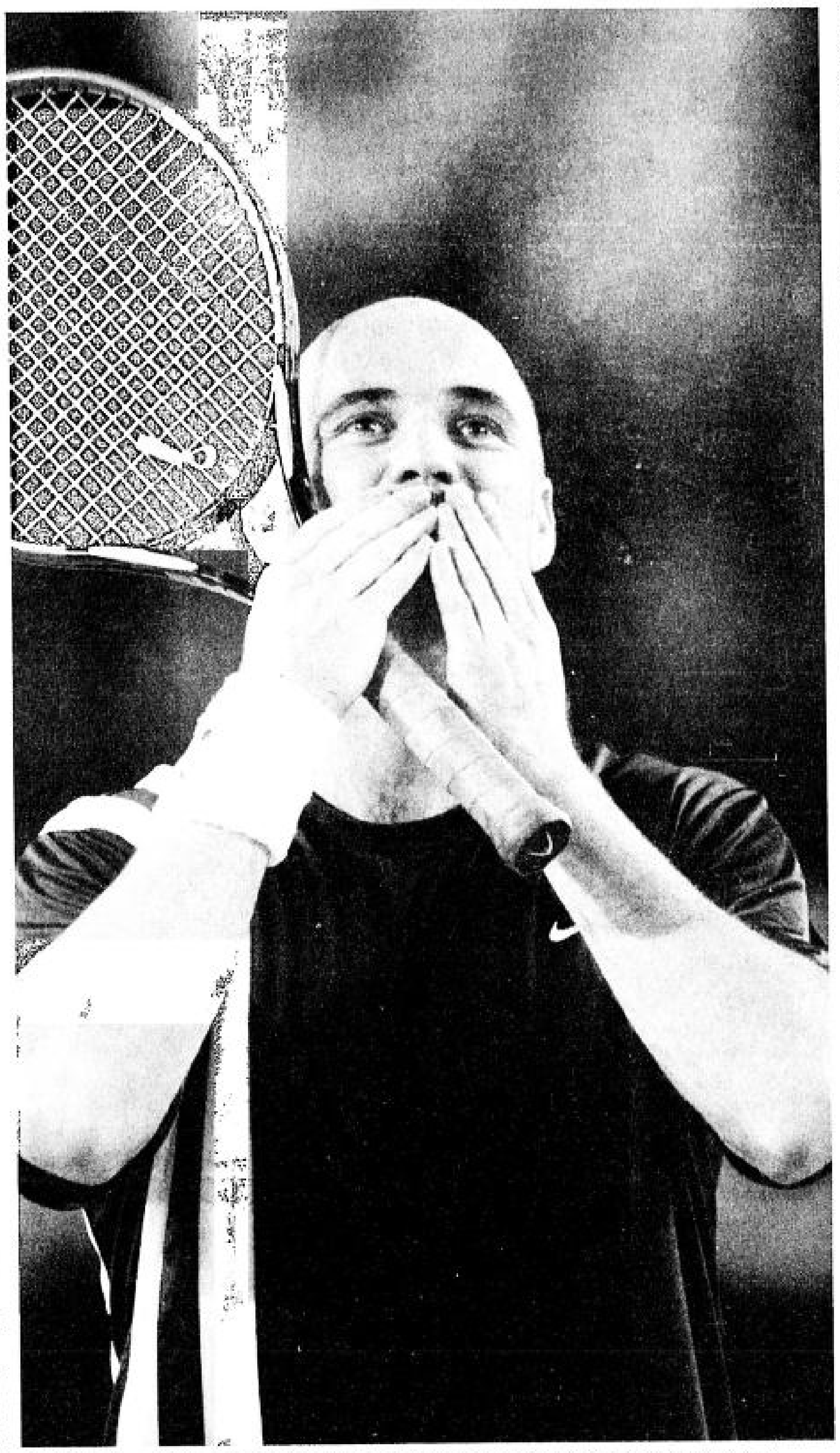
Serena is aiming to be the first woman to hold all four major titles at once since Steffi Graf nine years ago. Graf also had a close call, at the 1993 Wimbledon final. Jana Navotna led Graf 4-1 and 40-30 in the third before she double faulted herself out of the match.

The Williams sisters later combined to reach the women's doubles final, beating Lindsay Davenport and Lisa Raymond 6-2, 6-2.

Between now and Saturday's singles final, talk in the Williams camp won't center on tennis.

"I don't like to bring my work home," Serena said.

Trailing 1-5 in the final set against Clijsters, Serena held serve and then saved two match points — one with a swinging volley winner to end a long point.

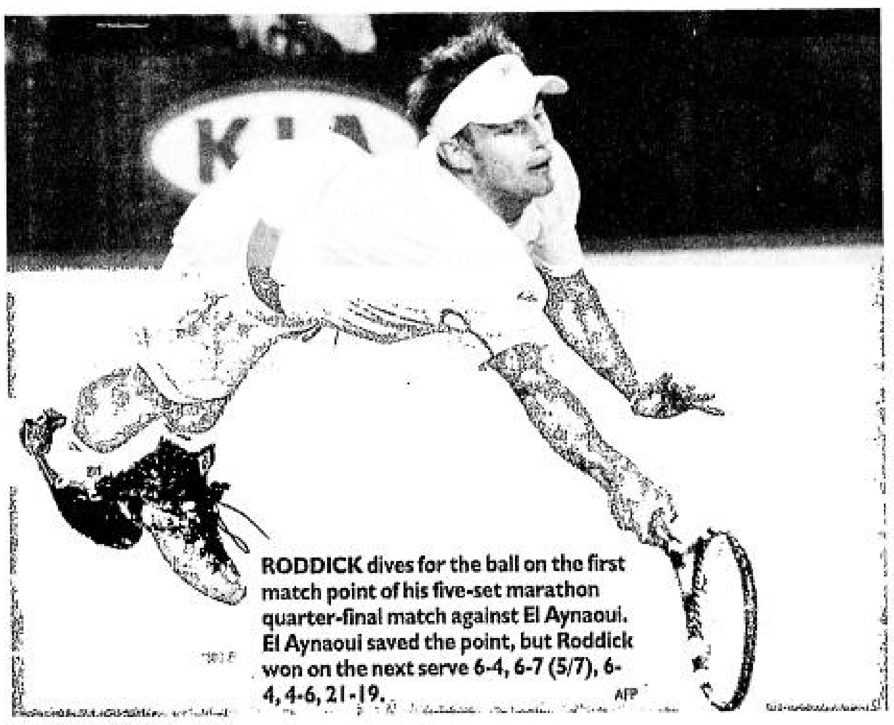


**AGASSI blows his traditional kisses to the crowd after beating Ferreira, 6-2, 6-2, 6-4, to advance to the final.** REUTERS

**SERENA Williams** REUTERS

**VENUS Williams** REUTERS

# Can Roddick survive German foe in semis?



**RODDICK dives for the ball on the first match point of his five-set marathon quarter-final match against El Aynaoui. El Aynaoui saved the point, but Roddick won on the next serve 6-4, 6-7 (5/7), 6-4, 4-6, 21-19.** AFP

MELBOURNE, Australia—Rainer Schuettler is six years older than Andy Roddick but time is on his side.

With stirring campaigns, Schuettler and Roddick will play their first Grand Slam semifinals Friday for a place in Sunday's Australian Open final.

In any Grand Slam, the conservation of energy becomes a crucial facet as players get deeper into the second week and this is the biggest question facing Roddick.

The 20-year-old American has spent 13 hours and 55 minutes on court in his five matches, including a near five-hour epic against Younes El Aynaoui which ended in the early hours of Thursday morning.

Schuettler has scurried through the draw with the same speedy efficiency he shows across the baseline. Aided by a walkover against injured Marat Safin, the 26-year-old German has clocked up 7:53 on court — six hours, two minutes fewer than Roddick.

"What, did he play about six hours in this whole tournament? That's nice," said Roddick after clawing his way past El Aynaoui.

While Schuettler played early Wednesday, and had his semifinal spot wrapped up by 4:30 p.m. local time, Roddick didn't drag himself off center court until eight hours later.

He planned a day of R and R on Thursday before the Friday night clash, but did have a light hit up in the afternoon.

"I plan on sleeping sometime between now and then (and) eating," he joked, in the manner of a condemned man.

"I'm going to get a couple of massages, try my best. I don't want this to be the end of the tournament for me. Sera, sera, I played five hours. That being said I have another match to play."

Roddick, who beat Schuettler last year in their only meeting, has shouldered plenty of pressure as the United States' best player since Pete Sampras and Andre Agassi.

Suggestions he is poised to assume their mantle have irritated him.

"I'm coming up and it's a hard act to follow," he said last week. "It's tough being in the shadow of Pete and Andre. I don't think anyone can assume their mantle, they have, what, 21 Slams?"

Roddick has attracted attention at every Grand Slam and expectations are high.

By comparison, Schuettler has virtually ghosted through the draw. He overcame high profile American James Blake in four sets and then conquered a tired David Nalbandian in five. *AP*

# Clijsters denies choking

MELBOURNE—Kim Clijsters denied she had choked after her dramatic semi-final collapse against Serena Williams at the Australian Open final here Thursday.

Clijsters led 5-1 in the final set and held two match points at 5-2 only for Williams to launch a remarkable fightback for a 4-6, 6-3, 7-5 win.

"I wasn't nervous at all, actually. Not at all," Clijsters said, when asked if it was a case of her losing the match rather than Williams winning it.

"I think she just started hitting winners and much more than in the beginning of the third set when I was 5-1 up." The 19-year-old Belgian also missed an opportunity when serving for the match at 5-4. But two consecutive double faults put her 0-30 down and Williams broke before going on to claim victory.

The loss revived memories of Jana Novoma's famous capitulation against Steffi Graf in the 1993 Wimbledon final when she led 4-1 in the final set before losing. *AFP*

# *Jody leads awardees*

FIVE of the countries top motorsports personalities who excelled in the previous year will be honored for their achievements during the Batangas Racing Circuit Association (BRCA) Awards Night at the Casino Filipino Ampitheater in Parañaque starting at 7 p. m. today.

To be honored for their exemplary showing in the year 2002 are Jody Coseteng of Caltex-Red Horse Auto Plus, who emerged as the overall champion in the Philippine National Touring Car Championship; Vincent Floirendo of Fujitsu Team Toms-Shell, who topped Class B; Joel Retuya of Shell Racing, who ruled the Formula Toyota Cup; Jolet Jao who dominated the expert category in the Shell Advance Super Bike Series; and Nikki Romero, who ruled the novice class of the road racing competition.

Coseteng defeated Jojo Silverio and Floirendo, both of Fujitsu-Team Toms-Shell in the PNTCC held at the Batangas Racing Circuit and Subic.

# San Beda netters trip Mapua for 2nd win

SAN Beda College rallied in the deciding second singles yesterday to pick up its second straight win in the 78th NCAA men's tennis tournament at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.

Borgs Solpico played the heroics for the Red Lions' 2-1 victory over Mapua Institute of Technology with his 6-4, 5-7, 6-4 win over Paul Vincent Cruz.

The Cardinals took a 1-0 lead when Raffy Santiago outplayed Neil Fernandez, 7-5, 6-3, in the first singles match.

San Beda leveled the count at 1-1 after Emerson Ocampo and Solpico survived Santiago and Cruz, 6-2, 4-6, 6-2, in the doubles.

The San Sebastian Stags of Frederick Morgan likewise notched their second consecutive win following a 2-1 decision over College of St. Benilde.

Nino Salvador defeated Johan Ray Moreno, 6-1, 6-3, Arvil Ruel and Salvador outclassed Juan Vincent Cruz and Moreno, 6-3, 6-2, while Cruz won over Michael Tenoria, 8-7.

Defending champion Letran won by default over Jose Rizal University to keep solo lead at 3-0.

In the juniors division, San Beda and St. Benilde scored contrasting wins to share the lead with PCU at 2-0.

The Red Cubs downed the Red Robins, 2-1, behind Nestor Celestino's 6-0, 6-0 win over Ronald Vera, Jopy Mamawal and Celestino's 6-2, 6-0, win over Vyaki Sabandon and Ramon Mabanes, while Sabandon clobbered Mamawal, 8-1.

The Baby Blazers, on the other hand, demolished the Staglets, 3-0, after Jandrick de Castro dumped Martin Ramos, 6-0, 6-2, Irwin de Guzman and Ian Avila outplayed Jan Inri Grape and Jaime Ochoa, 7-5, 6-4, and Lawrence Magaway blasted Mikoff Manduriao, 8-0.

The reigning champion Squires whipped the JRU Altalettes, 3-0, to improve their record to 2-1. Boris Chavez downed Geoffrey Calcita, 6-4, 6-1, Russell Arcilla Jr. and Juan Felipe Mayor conquered Jose Wenceslao and Calcita, 7-5, 6-1, and Mayor waylaid Wenceslao, 8-1.

## Slugfest resumes

THE Go for Gold boxing competitions will resume tomorrow after three years of absence with 12 bouts slated at the Jose Rizal Shrine in Calamba, Laguna. The bouts are hosted by Calamba Mayor Severino Lajara.

### FIRST GENTLEMAN'S TOUR

# Pucay grabs 2-stroke lead over Siodina

**CAGAYAN DE ORO—Mars Pucay stepped closer to becoming the season's first back-to-back winner after he riddled the front nine with five birdies en route to a four-under-par 68 yesterday in the First Gentleman's Circuit here.**

Pucay, the brand-new Mizuno pro who won at Palos Verdes last week, held a two-stroke lead going to today's final round at Pueblo de Oro.

Pucay capped his front nine rampage with a 30-foot birdie putt on the ninth hole and made no major slips coming home to emerge the fifth player to occupy the top spot.

Pucay led second-round co-leader Mario Siodina in the series bankrolled by First Gentleman Mike Arroyo and San Miguel Beer with WG&A Super Ferry as the official carrier.

The 54-year-old Siodina, who was all alone in second place at 211 after rallying to shoot a 71, is aiming to become the oldest player to win on the local tour, the revival of which is being organized by the Federation of Golf Clubs of the Philippines.

Cassius Casas, Robert Pactolerin and Eddie Bagtas were right behind the leaders, with Casas shooting 68 and Pactolerin and Bagtas 69s.

Casas eagled the par-5 16th with a glorious 6-iron from 205 yards for a tap-in from three feet.

Rey Pagunsan, Siodina's co-leader in the third round, dropped to solo sixth at 214 after a 74. Two-leg winner Benjie Magada was at 72-215.

"This is sometimes a crazy game. After what happened last week, I need to take it one shot at a time tomorrow and execute it the best way possible," said Pucay.

He opened the round with a bogey but he got back quickly with back-to-back birdies from the second, ending the front nine with a birdie-par-birdie-birdie blitz.

Siodina's round was the opposite as he hit the turn with a 38 after driving to the water on the ninth for a double-bogey. He rallied with a 33, counting his birdies on the 10th, 11th and 14th.

**PUCAY:** Gunning for a second straight win.
PDI PHOTO

## DiMarco favored

PHOENIX, Arizona—With Tiger Woods continuing to nurse a knee injury and South Africa's Ernie Els opting to compete in Singapore, Woods' fellow American Chris DiMarco has a chance to do something that no golfer has done in nearly 30 years - repeat at the Phoenix Open. *AFP*

## DHL-NGAP golf draws big names

**FELICIANO**

ALL the big names in amateur golf – from Southeast Asian Games champion Juvic Pagunsan to reigning national titlist Jerome Delariarte to the eminent Tommy Manotoc – have been accounted for days before the staging of the 8th DHL –NGAP Open Amateur golf championships.

Pagunsan, Delariarte and Manotoc are among 33 names that have so far signed up for the Jan. 28-31 event at the Canlubang North sponsored by DHL Worldwide Express and supported by WWW Express.

"The presence of these fine top-caliber golfers all but guarantees an exciting week of golf at Canlubang," said DHL chair Rod Feliciano, who is also the president of the organizing National Golf Association of the Philippines.

Pagunsan, out to stake his claim as the undisputed No. 1 in amateur golf after Angelo Que turned pro this year, heads the entries from the stable of Canlubang's Luigi Yulo.

Joining him from the Canlubang team that is set to defend its title in next month's PAL Interclub are Jun Bernis, Boyet Zaragosa, ex-pro Dave Hernandez and former national caddies champion Jay Bayron.

"I've been playing as much as twice to three times a week at Calatagan so we'll see where my game is," said Manotoc, whose best finish in the DHL Open was a share of second behind now-pro Gerard Cantada three years ago.

Manotoc was at Canlubang yesterday, getting himself reacquainted with the North course.

The Southwoods delegation is also well represented, with Delariarte leading the pack. His teammates are Juami Rocha, one-time national champion Artemio Murakami, Marvin Dumandan and Erwin Vinluan.

## Baguio CC paces golfest

BAGUIO CITY—Host Baguio Country Club and Baguio Ladies Open Golf Association banked on their familiarity with the course to score 123 points and share the early lead in Class A of the 28th Baguio Ladies Invitational Interclub golf tournament here.

Anne Philips and Sonia Bruce combined for 66 points to banner BCC's assault of the par 61 layout. They were supported by Nannete Filler (29) and Norma Lawrence (28).

Dairin Faherty, Auring Lacson and Dahila Page pooled 94 points while Eva Aquino contributed 29 points for Bloga.

At third is Philippine Navy, which amassed 121 points through the 33s of Maria Hilda Badong and Nanie Cruz, Medy Agustin's 28 and Beth Mechavez's 27.

Villamor is at fourth with 120, followed by Aguinaldo with 117 and Wack Wack with 109. Newcomer Forest Hills of Riviera Golf Club is tied at 105.

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# MJ passes Wilt in scoring parade

NEW ORLEANS—Michael Jordan became the third leading scorer in the history of the NBA on Wednesday night in a game against the New Orleans Hornets.

Jordan hit a fallaway jump shot with a minute to play in the first half to pass Wilt Chamberlain for third place on the career scoring list. Jordan had 18 points but the Wizards lost, 103-94.

The basket put Jordan's career scoring total at 31,420 points, which he has amassed in 1,032 regular season games.

Chamberlain had 31,419 points in 1,045 career regular season games.

He still trails Karl Malone of the Utah Jazz, who had 35,464 points heading into his game against the Los Angeles Clippers on Wednesday.

Kareem Abdul-Jabbar is the all-time leader with 38,387 career points.

**COMPLETE RESULTS**

Milwaukee 106, Boston 97; Orlando 94, Chicago 91; Philadelphia 92, Detroit 83; Miami 92, Phoenix 85; New York 97, Denver 88; Indiana 101, Toronto 98; Minnesota 96, Seattle 91; Portland 112, Atlanta 110 (ot); Memphis 98, San Antonio 93; LA Clippers 96, Utah 89; New Orleans 103, Washington 94; Golden State 114, LA Lakers 110.

*AFP*

# Welcoat needs OT to beat Dazz

**GAMES TOMORROW** *(La Salle Centrum, Lipa City)*
1:30 p.m.—Blu vs LBC-Batangas
3:30 p.m.—Welcoat Paints vs Dazz

**By Dennis U. Eroa**

**WELCOAT recovered from 18 points down to stun Dazz in overtime, 77-68, in Game One of the best-of-five championship series for the PBL Challenge Cup last night at the Quezon Convention Center in Lucena City.**

Paul Artadi's "lucky" triple in extra time capped the Paintmasters furious comeback against the Sparklers, who lost John Ferriols, Joel Dualan and Eugene Tan on fouls as early as the fourth period.

The Paintmasters stared at defeat as they trailed, 54-36, at the end of the third period, but recovered mightily when Ronald Tubid and Marc Pingris pierced the Sparklers' defense.

Peter June Simon, who earlier hit a three-point shot, could have given Dazz the win but he travelled with 2.8 seconds remaining an the score tied at 66.

Artadi, then, took over as Welcoat took the lead for good, 68-66.

**TUBID: Spark plug.** FILE PHOTO

Coach Leo Austria pulled a surprise in his sleeve as he fielded in bench warmer Dennis Miranda in the fourth period to partner Artadi in the backcourt.

The burly Miranda did not only stabilize Welcoat's backcourt but also made a daredevil under-goal stab which preserved Tubid's heroics, 66-66.

Welcoat actually missed 20 freethrows but more than made up for this with its fighting heart as exemplified by Tubid, who scored 18 points in the second half.

Earlier, Ralph Rivera and Alex Compton made the crucial baskets as LBC-Batangas tripped Blu Detergent, 74-68, moving to within a win of snatching third place.

Rivera keyed the Blades' furious finish with a triple and Compton iced the win by sinking four straight free throws in the final 31 seconds.

LBC goes for the clincher tomorrow at the La Salle Centrum in Lipa City.

Aries Dimaunahan's jumper gave Blu a slim 62-61 advantage but the Detergent Kings were caught flatfooted when the Blades suddenly shifted from zone to man-to-man defense.

The loss negated Eric de la Cuesta's explosive showing. The 6-foot-1 De la Cuesta fired 29 points, built around seven triples.

Scores:

**LBC-BATANGAS 74**—Compton 24, Rivera 17, De Castro 10, Uy 6, Baguion 5, Magpayo 4, Roldan 4, Caceres 2, Cuevas 2, Reguera 0, Sta. Cruz 0.

**BLU 68**—De la Cuesta 29, Dimaunahan 10, Gatumbato 7, Prior 6, Codamon 5, Calo 4, Gamboa 3, Latoreno 2, Legaspi 2, Garcia 0.

Quarters: 16-16, 33-31, 51-55, 74-68

## RACING TIPS

AT SANTA. ANA
BY MR. 999

Race 1--1. Sanry Forex 2. Venus 3. Battle Hero
Race 2--1. D'Optician 2. Pabuya 3. Cycloneferros 4. Epic Energy 5. Rainbow Dazzler
Race 3–1. Noah's Ark 2. Everybodyhappy 3. Trail Blazer 4. Friendly Venture
Race 4–1. Lance 2. Golden Moment 3. Bastonero 4. Colonial Affair 5. Blue Bolero
Race 5–1. Pride of cebu 2. Free Again 3. D' Greatest 4. Supreme Prospect 5. Freshman
Race 6–1. D'Barrister 2. Madam Aida 3. Lady Darinda 4. Witch Craft 5. Privately Owned
Race 7–1. Sir Pierre 2. Duty Bound 3. Jay Nicole 4. Top Most 5. Treasured Medal
Race 8–1. Jackpot 2. Sky Wind 3. Kokoro 4. Dedicated 5. Lady Blaster
Race 9–1. Picture Perfect 2. Miguel's Pet 3. Nokaba 4. Main Street 5. With Feeling 6. Men of Honor

# PBA backs players' fight vs VAT

**By June Navarro**

THE PHILIPPINE Basketball Association yesterday promised to support the fight of its coaches and players against the value added tax (VAT) which will be imposed next month by the government on professionals earning on talent or consultancy fees.

PBA commissioner Noli Eala, however, insists that if the plea of the coaches and players fall on deaf ears, the league has no other choice but to follow the laws of the land.

"We'll definitely support the stand of the players and coaches against the VAT. But if the government decides to impose it, we are bound to comply with the law," said the 39-year-old Eala, himself a lawyer and a stickler for government rules.

PBA players, particularly the Sta. Lucia Realty team, took their clamor to the streets and sought an audience with the Senate on Monday to seek the scrapping of the added tax.

The players joined hands with some 300 show biz personalities, entertainers, doctors, accountants, lawyers and their fellow athletes decrying the debilitating impact of the VAT.

Once it is imposed, the VAT will add another 10-percent to the 20-percent withholding tax the players and coaches are already shouldering.

"As an institution, the PBA will not be affected by the VAT. But the league has a duty to orient its players for them to comply on whatever requirement the government imposes," said Eala.

The tax was required under a 1997 law but its application to professionals, athletes included, was deferred for five years by a subsequent law that expired on Dec. 31, 2002.

Now, the Macapagal-Arroyo administration is pushing for its implementation but has granted the protesters a one-month reprieve from paying their dues.

The government reportedly extended the registration period to Feb. 28. The registration was originally set to end on Jan. 31.

The House of Representatives recently passed a measure seeking another deferment, but the Senate has yet to act on it.

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# SEAG officials seek lawmakers help

**By Marc Anthony Reyes**

LET'S fatten the Southeast Asian Games kitty with a small chop from the pork barrel.

To help generate funds for the country's hosting of the 2005 SEA Games, organizers are planning to solicit from senators and congressmen one percent of their countrywide development fund or pork barrel.

The good news is, there are already two lawmakers who agreed to pitch in for the SEAG kitty, Sen. Manny Villar and Philippine SEA Games Organizing Committee member Rep. Monico Puentevella.

According to organizing committee member, taekwondo chief Robert Aventajado, Villar and Puentevella readily responded favorably to the plan.

"These gentlemen realized that sports is the perfect apolitical activity where we can unify the whole nation," said Aventajado, who is also the chair of the Philippine Olympic Committee.

He added that Villar and Puentevella supported the idea personally but could not talk on behalf of their fellow lawmakers.

"When President Arroyo declared that she's not running in 2004, everybody's looking for apolitical activities where all sectors, regardless of political affiliation, can participate. This (SEA Games) is it," added Aventajado.

Based on Aventajado's calculations, if the 220 senators and congressmen agree to give one percent of their "pork barrel" which is approximately P50 million a year, they can accumulate P110 million in just one year.

"And we are three full years away from the SEA Games. Their contribution alone can reach P330 million which is substantial enough," Aventajado said.

The organizers estimate the SEAG hosting to cost between P2.5 billion and P3 billion with much of it going to the construction and refurbishing of the playing venues.

## SPORTSWATCH

### World Slasher finals today

CROWD favorites Thunderbird Firefly-I Hatchet of Jorge "Nene" Araneta and 2001 champion Roger Roberts of Atlanta, Georgia, together with Winslet Malaysia of last year's winner Dicky Lim and his Malaysian Group, stayed unbeaten with a 4-0 slate yesterday to set the pace in this afternoon's (Friday) four-cock finals of the blockbuster World Slasher 8-Cock Derby at the Araneta Coliseum. Five other entries shared the spotlight with four straight wins, namely, Gold Cup Jed and Joy of William Go, Jade-LCC of Pol Estrellado and Manny Santos, R&B Farm Binangonan I of Claude Bautista, RT 114 BJ Highrise II of Ruel Ricafort and Bull Jack and HK-Jobo Winning Time Agimat of Lito Orillaza. Thirteen other entries scored three points each to remain in the running in this derby hosted by Nene Araneta, June Santiago and Ito Ynares of the pioneer National Cockers Association.

### NCR, Baguio booters shine

NCR (National Capital Region) champion Ateneo de Manila University and Baguio's Pines City High overwhelmed their respective rivals yesterday to complete the semifinal cast in the Luzon Coke Go-for-Goal under-16 football finals at the Philsports field in Pasig City. With Gerard Cancio and Ken Noda scoring three goals apiece, the Ateneans whipped Camarines Norte's Vinzons Pilot High, 8-1, to sweep its two Group A rivals and enter the semis with idle Pedro Guevarra Memorial National High of Laguna. Mark Ed Lusong knocked in four goals to power the Pines City boys past Rizal's Gen. Licerio Geronimo Memorial National High, 8-0, and qualify in Group B with unbeaten Masbate National Comprehensive High. Semifinal action unwraps today with Ateneo meeting Pines City High at 7:30 a.m. and Masbate facing Pedro Guevarra Memorial National High at 9:30 in knockout matches.

### Wheelchair cagefest Saturday

SEVEN teams, including four from the National Capital Region, will see action in the 2003 season of the Philippine Wheelchair Basketball League which will kick off on Saturday at the Mandaluyong gym. Baguio, Visayas and Mindanao will also be represented in the event organized by the Philippine Sports Association for the Differently-Abled (Philspada) in cooperation with the Philippine Basketball Association (PBA), Philippine Basketball League (PBL), and the Philippine Sports Commission (PSC). Invited to grace the opening ceremony starting at 2 p.m. are Mandaluyong Mayor Benhur Abalos, PSC commissioner Michael Barredo, PBA commissioner Noli Eala and PBL commissioner Chino Trinidad. Regular games will be played at the Brent gym in Pasig.

### Checkmate enrolment listing

LAST batch of enrollees for the first series of 2003 Milo Checkmate Saturday-only clinic have until tomorrow, Jan. 25, to register at the following venues: St. Benedict College (SBC) in Alabang Hills, Muntinlupa City; Rizal Memorial Sports Complex (RMSC) in Vito Cruz, Manila and Greenhills Shopping Center (GSC) in San Juan. Clinic at SBC will be held at the HS student lounge from 7:30-11:30 a.m.; at RMSC-9 a.m.-1 p.m. inside NAS office and 2:30-6:30 p.m. at GSC former fishing wharf. Courses offered are for preparatory, beginners, intermediate and advance players. Clinic at Quezon City will also start tomorrow and will be held from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the 4/F of J&F Divino Bldg. located at #967 Aurora Blvd. in Quirino District. For details, call the Metropolitan Chess Club at 826-8560, 0918-939-3702 and 0916-852-1069.

# Pasay derby tonight

METRO Manila cockers converge tonight to compete in Pasay City Cockpit's 4-cock derby beginning at 7 p.m. Derby sponsors are Sagupaan Complexor 3000 and Sagupaan Mite Free.

Veteran cocker Cito Manansala will host the event to be assisted by pit manager Oscar Gonzales, Eric dela Rosa and Butchoy Olano.

Early favorites include the entries of councilor Ferdie Eusebio, Tony Lasala, Benjie Lim, William Co, Ansel Cordura, Jun Marasigan, Mayor Nene Aguilar, Johnny Elorde, Manuel Polo and Dicky Lim.

Meanwhile, big-time cockers are taking part in a 5-cock event on Jan. 31 to be promoted by Jun Marasigan of Batangas.

For inquiries on reservation of cockhouses, please contact 816-6750, 843-1890 and 843-1746.

## BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1994, Mario Castro clocked one hour, 8 minutes and 36 seconds to win his fourth successive Puma Half-Marathon crown at the Quirino Grandstand. Also today in 1997, Jodel de la Cruz scored a five-game sweep to bag the Swiss System event of the Buhawi National Inter-School Active Chess Championship in Cagayan de Oro.

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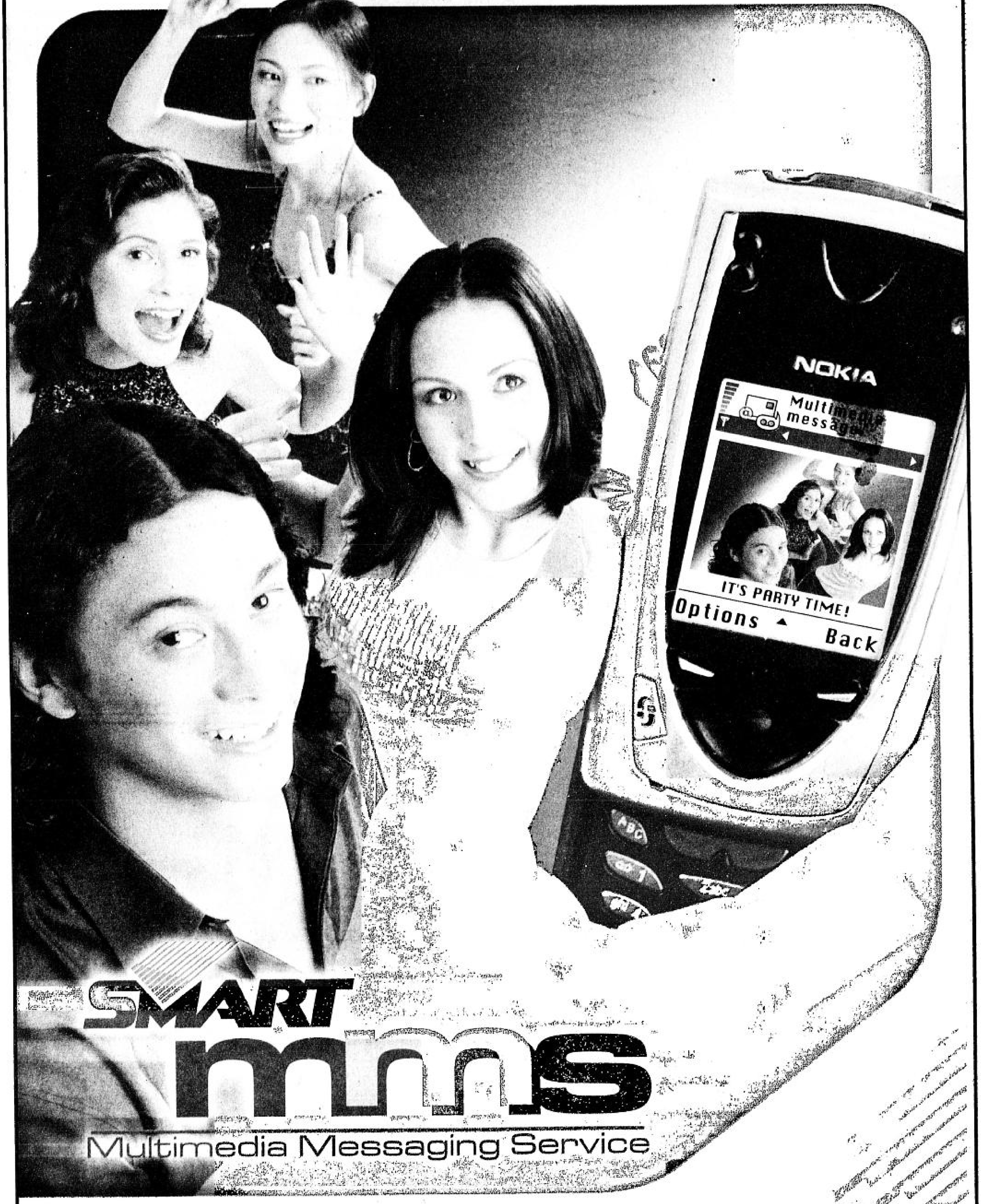
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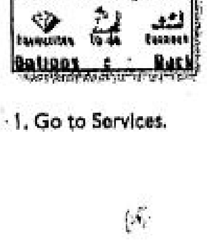
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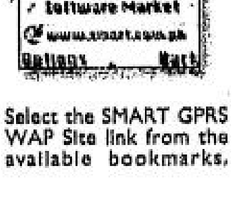
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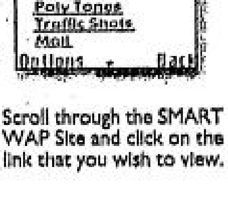
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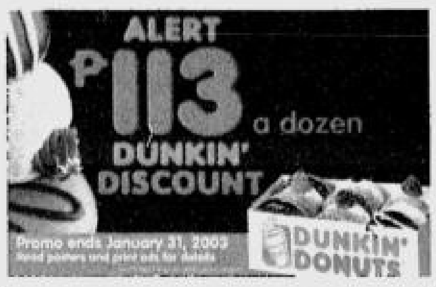

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## BARON CERVANTES KILLING

# 'Cardeño could have fled abroad'

**By Christian Esguerra**

IF SUPT. Rafael Cardeño's lawyer were to be believed, Chief Supt. Romeo Maganto could be headed for a long and exhaustive search for the suspected mastermind of the Baron Cervantes murder.

Lawyer Homobono Adaza yesterday said the fugitive could have already flown abroad, even before Maganto's team could commence the search.

"I'm afraid it's very possible because I myself could not contact him anymore," the lawyer told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview.

Asked if the possible flight could be seen as an indication of Cardeño's guilt, Adaza replied that the question now is not a matter of guilt, but more of "life and death."

"It's no longer an issue of guilt or innocence, but of life and death," Adaza said. "If he already wants to die, he'll surrender. The government has long been threatening to kill him."

CARDENO

Adaza's claim about Cardeño's possible flight was in stark contrast to Maganto's confident pronouncement that Cardeño and fellow fugitive Santiago "Sonny" Camacho were still hiding somewhere in Metro Manila or in nearby provinces.

Maganto yesterday said that Cardeño and Camacho had made a risky decision when they decided to split up—a decision the police official claimed could finally lead to their arrest.

Adaza is set to return to Manila today after a three-day trip to Davao, where he supposedly looked for his missing client.

He said he had met with several people who could help him locate the fugitive.

## *Lotto pot now stands at P100M*

THE JACKPOT for the 6/45 Mega Lotto draw has reached the P100-million mark after no one hit the winning combination in the draw last Wednesday, the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office said yesterday.

Conrado Zabella of the PCSO said that he expects the jackpot for this Friday's Mega Lotto draw to reach P102 million.

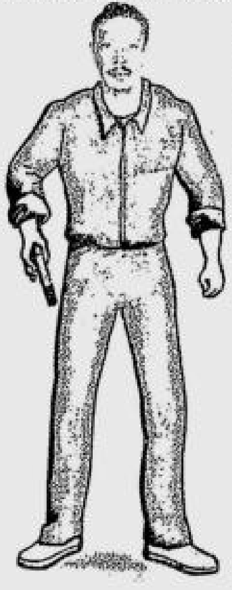
The jackpot for the draw last Wednesday amounted to P92 million. No lotto player picked the winning numbers 10, 11, 28, 40, 41 and 43.

The odds of hitting the right combination is one out of 8.1 million, based on the number of combinations one can make with the numbers available. *Agnes Donato*

# Public warned against Llamas slay suspect

**By Christian Esguerra and Philip Tubeza**

THE ALLEGED killer of Ateneo law graduate Jose Ramon Llamas is a former military trainee and an "unwanted" member of his clan, a police investigator said yesterday.



Bashir Abdulrahman, 33, had trained with the Philippine Army which explains his knowledge of firearms, the investigator said.

The public should also be warned that he's armed and dangerous, the Pasay police officer told the INQUIRER.

"He's no ordinary fugitive, he's very dangerous," he said.

"(Abdulrahman) was hotheaded, he easily got angry," said Ismael Bilal, the suspect's brother-in-law.

Bilal said he last saw his brother-in-law in September. He also confirmed that Abdulrahman owned a 9-mm pistol.

Investigation also showed that the suspect, a high school graduate, is a member of a notorious fraternity in Mindanao.

Quoting the suspect's relatives, a Pasay police officer said that Abdulrahman was considered a "black sheep" in the family, essentially because he supposedly refused to work and has left his wife to handle their business.

The family sells clothes, fake video and music compact discs, and other items in Avenida, Manila, police said.

"His relatives are angry with him because they said he's lazy," the police investigator said. "They said he didn't want to work."

To appease her angry family, Abdulrahman's wife stopped using the suspect's surname, the investigator said.

This somehow made it more difficult for probers to immediately trace the current owner of the motorcycle left behind by the Ateneo graduate's killer, the officer added.

Abdulrahman, with addresses in Quiapo, Manila and Marawi City, allegedly shot Llamas on Jan. 10 during a traffic altercation at the corner of Taft and Buendia avenues in Pasay City.

Abdulrahman allegedly left behind his motorcycle, which police used to trace his identity.

Bilal, of Datu Ismael, Dasmariñas, Cavite, yesterday executed a sworn affidavit, stating that he sold the Kawasaki motorcycle for P45,000 to the gunman in December last year.

Bilal's sister, Doblon Barimbingan, is Abdulrahman's wife. They have two children, aged 3 and 11.

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# Bad shot at Love-ball for RP team pool star

By Agnes E. Donato

THE QUEZON City Prosecutor's Office yesterday recommended the filing of adultery charges against RP billiards team member Lee Van Corteza, a two-time gold medalist in the Southeast Asian Games.

The charges stemmed from Corteza's alleged affair with a married woman.

Quezon City Assistant Prosecutor Dindo Venturanza said he found probable cause that Corteza and his alleged mistress Gelia Abadicio, of Imus,Cavite, could be guilty of the offense.

In his one-page resolution, Venturanza said that there was "a strong circumstantial and corroborative evidence that will lead to a conclusion that the respondents committed acts of adultery."

Complainant Chris Abadicio said that he and his wife have been married since Sept. 7, 1995.

He related that, being a ship captain, he was usually out of the country. He said this must have given his wife a chance to maintain an extramarital affair.

Abadicio said he discovered the affair after his relatives caught the respondents checking in at an apartelle in New Manila in the morning of June 7, 2002.

Abadicio's relatives reportedly waited for the respondents to come out of the hotel at about 3 p.m. and took pictures of the pair.

The complainant used the pictures as evidence against the respondents.

"In the very nature of things, it is seldom that the crime of adultery is established by direct evidence of a woman engaging in sexual intercourse with a man other than her husband," Venturanza said in his resolution.

"Nevertheless, strong circumstantial and corroborative evidence will lead the guarded discretion of a reasonable and just man to the conclusion that the alleged act has been committed and is sufficient to sustain a conviction of adultery," he added.

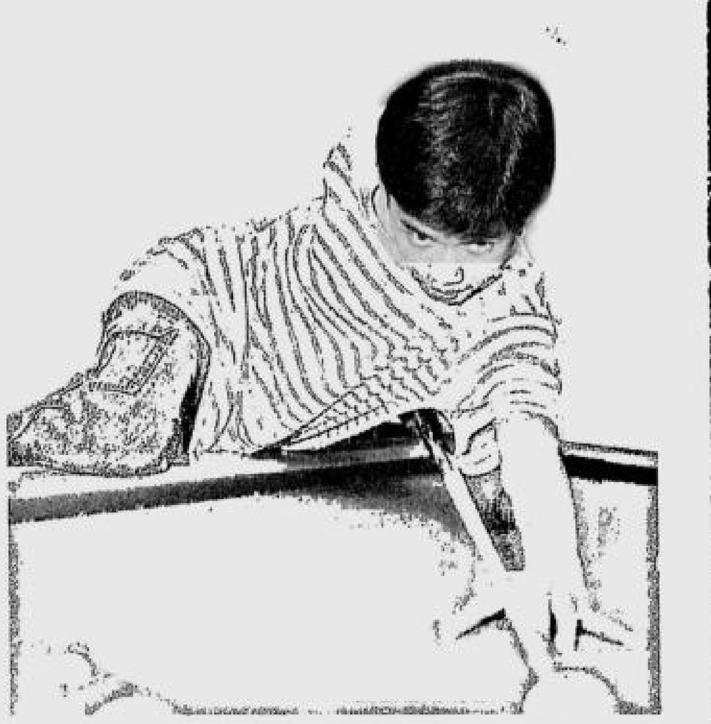
Corteza, 25, a member of the Billiards and Snooker Congress of the Philippines, and Gelia Abadicio both failed to appear during the preliminary investigation of the case.

They were ordered to pay P12,000 each for their temporary liberty.

Corteza, son of an engineer from Davao, won gold medals for the country in both the 1999 Brunei and 2001 Kuala Lumpur Southeast Asian Games.

He competed as a member of the national team in last year's World Pool Championship in Cardiff, Wales.

He upset the legendary Efren "Bata" Reyes in bagging the 8-ball singles gold medal in the 2001 KL Sea Games.



**ADULTERY** charges have been filed against poolshark Lee Van Corteza, shown here in winning form.

PDI FILE

# Domingo stands firm on jailing of American

**BARE EYE**

*Recah Trinidad*

FRIENDS wondered if I had been losing sleep over the case of Perry McNeeley, currently detained in Madaue over sex charges.

Of course, not. I haven't met the man, but I had to voice my concern because, after we printed McNeeley's plea here, the Bureau of Immigration had remained unmoved.

Several Cebu newsmen, led by Salven Lagumbay, and former city mayor Alvin B. Garcia had vouched for the innocence of the detained foreigner. Lagumbay, of the Cebu Daily News, had expressed fear the government might be doing an injustice to an innocent man who, he said, has been trying to help poor, aspiring boxers in Cebu.

Well, our pleas would not go unheeded.

On Wednesday, we received a categorical reply from Immigration Commissioner Adrea Domingo who said McNeeley deserves every minute of his detention.

***

Her letter:

This refers to your column (A Second Call To The Immigration Commissioner) that saw in the Philippine Daily Inquirer issue of January 20, 2003 touching on the case of Parry Martin Mcneely, a US national.

In your opinion, the Bureau of Immigration has allegedly committed or is doing an injustice to a man whom you praised for "making things better for poor Filipinos." In your opinion, Mr. Mcneely's alleged act of making things better for poor Filipinos should be sufficient for the Bureau to disregard his other acts that earned him multiple charges for rape and other immoral charges. Hence, you want Mr. Mcneely to be released on bail.

The Bureau is not in the habit of unreasonably denying anyone his liberty. It does only on the basis of proof that shows his detention to be necessarily protective of the common welfare.

In the case of Mr. McNeely, his detention was necessary in view of his multiple criminal cases for rape. True, some of these cases were later dismissed by the court. But you failed to consider the fact that Mr. McNeely is still facing charges for seduction and acts of lasciviousness, a fact admitted in writing by Mr. McNeely himself. He calls these, however, minor offenses, which speaks chapters of his low regard for our women.

In fact, the Board of Commissioners has decided to deport Mr. McNeely in view of the deportation charges filed against him before the Bureau for undesirability and violation of the conditions of his admission and stay. Based on the records, McNeely was a tourist at the time of his arrest.

Mr. McNeely also calls these charges fabricated. The fact, however, that stand out is that these charges resulted from operations conducted by the NBI and the CIDG. When McNeely's room in Metro Park Hotel in Cebu City was raided on Feb. 9, 2000, the ensuing search yielded 4 cameras, photos of nude Filipinas and, among others, bio-data forms of other young women in Cebu and other provinces. These pieces of evidence were not admitted by the court considering that the warrant was issued for violation of RA 7610. So, he escaped prosecution based on a technicality.

We, however, cannot implement the Deportation Order issued on him because of his pending criminal cases.

I am bound by oath to implement, administer and enforce the Philippine Immigration and citizenship laws. I have done so with due regards to any person's rights under the law. In the case of Mr. McNeely, I do feel that I have not deviated from the accepted norm.

Thank you for giving this letter appropriate space in your column.

***

Thank you very kindly Madame Commissioner.

Hours before the response letter from our dear Commissioner arrived, we received a call from McNeeley who said he had just come from a hearing of his case.

The man sounded overly gladdened by what he called favorable developments in the case.

Maybe McNeeley could tell us his reasons for being overjoyed.

He could also make some clarifications on the charges aired by the Bureau of Immigration, provided his claims are valid.

You see, we've risked the danger of sounding like a hearing judge.

But, just like our dear Immigration Commissioner, we are also duty-bound to stick to the rules of the game.

# Man slain when he dared gunowner to shoot him

By Leila Salaverria

"SO you have a gun? Go on, fire it."

Those were the last words of Danilo F. Buena, 42, before his unidentified assailant heeded his challenge and shot him once in the chest while they were on board a passenger bus in Makati at around 11:30 p.m. on Tuesday.

Buena, of Purok 6, Bayanan, Muntinlupa, was declared dead on arrival at the Makati Medical Center, police said.

P03 Rio Bucalan said that a drunken Buena and the suspect got into an argument inside a CIGN bus which was on the southbound lane of EDSA in Makati.

Bucalan said that when the bus reached Guadalupe, the suspect was trying to get down, but Buena allegedly kept on pushing him.

When the suspect reached the door, Buena kicked him and even taunted the suspect to shoot him, Bucalan quoted witnesses as saying.

The suspect then drew out his gun and shot Buena.

# 3 killed in Navotas turbo broiler fire

By Tina Santos

TWO children who were pushed inside a cabinet at the height of panic were killed with their grandmother in a fire that struck a thickly populated area in Navotas yesterday afternoon.

Several residents were injured and at least three hundred families were rendered homeless in the fire that was reportedly triggered off by an unattended electric turbo broiler.

Arson investigator FO3 Valerio Binayug identified the fatalities as Tessie Bautista, 55, and her two grandchildren Christine Mae, 3, and Emmanuel Ranile, 4.

Binayug said the victims could hardly be recognized when their bodies were recovered by firefighters and rescuers from the fire scene.

Witnesses said the two kids were embracing each other inside a cabinet when rescuers found them while Bautista's charred body was recovered inside the comfort room.

A number of injured residents, who have yet to be identified, were rushed to nearby hospitals.

The fire started at around 12:25 p.m. inside the house of Bautista on 533 Capor Niko Street, Barangay Bagong Bayan, North Bay Boulevard South (NBSS) and was put under control almost three hours later.

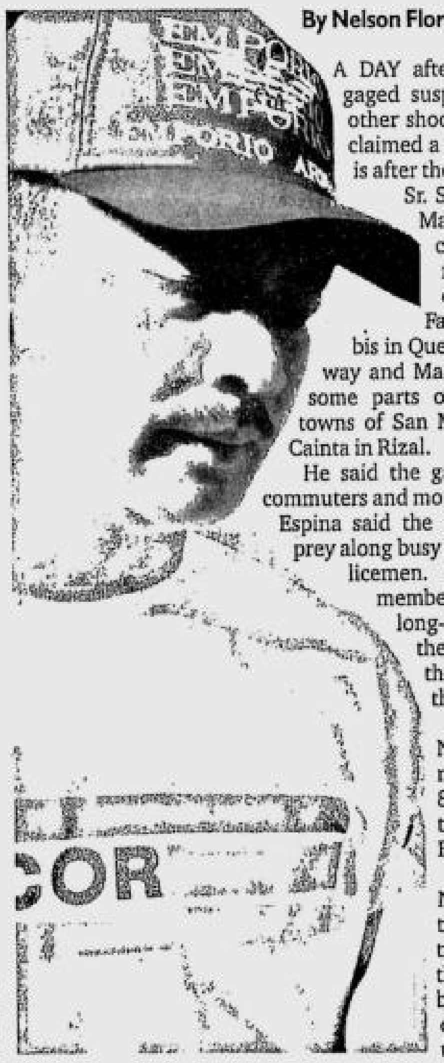
Prior to the fire, witnesses said they heard a mild explosion and thick smoke next came from Bautista's house. Bautista rushed back to her house where she was reportedly cooking chicken on the electric turbo broiler.

Arson probers theorized that Bautista could have panicked and , instead of pulling herself and her two grandchildren out of the burning house, she reportedly hid the kids inside a large cabinet as she herself jumped into the comfort room in an apparent attempt to save herself.

Authorities estimated damage at P20 million.

# Big gang out to get Parsons, police say

By Nelson Flores



A DAY after Sonny Parsons engaged suspected robbers in another shootout, police yesterday claimed a highly organized gang is after the actor-singer.

Sr. Supt. Leonardo Espina, Marikina City police chief, said the gang was responsible for a string of robberies in Fairview, Cubao and Libis in Quezon City, Marcos Highway and Masinag in Antipolo City, some parts of Pasig City and the towns of San Mateo, Rodriguez, and Cainta in Rizal.

He said the gang usually victimizes commuters and motorists in these areas.

Espina said the gang usually stops its prey along busy streets by posing as policemen. He added that gang members usually wear black long-sleeved t-shirts with the markings POLICE at the back to intimidate their victims.

"They also use a red Nissan Sentra car with registration plates CPW 842 and CPF 506 in their criminal stints," Espina said.

Espina said the same Nissan car, although this time without the registration plates, apparently was the same vehicle spotted by Parsons early Wednesday morning when unidentified men tried to surreptitiously enter his house.

Espina said an alarm is already out for the car and its occupants.

He added that, except for Quezon City police authorities, he already met with the police representatives of the areas concerned to formulate a cohesive plan that would lead to the arrest of the gang members.

"We will also meet with Central Police District Office representatives in our next meeting to ensure there will be no operational loopholes in our plans," Espina said.

Marikina City police records showed that Parsons, Jose Nabiola in real life, engaged in a brief shootout with suspected Akyat Bahay Gang members whom he caught casing his house early Wednesday morning.

Parsons said he was about to sleep at about 2:45 a.m. when he noticed an unidentified man reconnoitering their house, located at the corner of Bronze and Rainbow Streets in SSS Village.

He said he engaged the suspect in a gun battle and hit him in chest at least twice. He added that another man armed with an Armalite rifle quickly grabbed the apparently wounded man and threw him on board a waiting red Nissan Sentra car with no registration plates, after which the car sped away.

The attack came six months after the gang lost two of its members in a gun battle with the action star who had also served as councilor in Marikina City.

# 13 militants in US embassy riot arrested

By Philip Tubeza

MANILA policemen arrested 13 militant students who tried to break through a police barricade near the US Embassy.

Police nabbed members of the militant youth groups Anakbayan and National Union of Students in the Philippines along T.M. Kalaw Street on their way to the embassy at around 10:25 p.m. on Wednesday.

Around 50 militants wanted to get near the embassy to protest the impending war in Iraq when anti-riot policemen blocked their path. Police said the protestors did not have a rally permit.

But the militants, who had just come from a peace concert in a nearby school, tried to get through the barricade. The police dispersed them and arrested 13 militants.

# Police suspect in slay of four

By Alcuin Papa

CENTRAL Police District officials yesterday ordered an investigation into claims that Quezon City policemen were behind the killing of four men whose bodies were left inside a van parked on Edsa Tuesday.

Yesterday, relatives of the victims appeared before the Central Police District headquarters in Camp Karingal to identify the victims. The relatives also said they suspect policemen had rubbed out their kin.

CPD Director Senior Supt. Napoleon Castro said he would order a police line-up to identify possible suspects.

The victims were identified as Angelito Nabong, 25, a former security guard; Crisanto Fidellaga, 30, a house painter; Cristituto Carsido, 25; and a certain Allan, reportedly a police asset.

Evelyn Nabong had identified his father's body while Lilia Dangalan positively identified his son-in-law Fidellaga. Carsido's wife, who refused to give her name, also claimed his body.

Carsido's wife had admitted that her husband was indeed a pickpocket. She also said six policemen, going under codenames Kamandag, Barbie, Ranger, Apple, Bong and Pogi were her husband's protectors. The six are said to be assigned to Camp Karingal.

Allan was said to have fetched the three others from their respective houses on Tuesday. The next day, their bodies were found one on top of the other inside an L-300 van parked at the corner of EDSA and Quezon Avenue.

The van is said to be seen frequently in the Barangay Guload area. The four victims were said to be from San Ignacio Street, Villa Real, Barangay Gulod.

Senior Insp. Rodolfo Jaraza said the victims have records with the CPD as petty criminals.

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For more information on the Lady of All Nations and for free prayer cards, please contact The Confraternity of the Lady of All Nations, P.O. Box (8) 814 Dasmariñas Village, 1222 Makati City, Philippines. Telefax (63-2) 8445572.

Kakampi ng Naaapi! Magbabalik na!

# Ex-cop turned drug user kills self

**By Philip Tubeza**

A DISMISSED Western Police District lawman who allegedly turned to drugs killed himself in Manila on Wednesday.

Manolito S. Acebejo, formerly of WPD Station 8 in Sta. Mesa, was found dead inside his house on Radium Street, San Andres Bukid, Manila, said Detective Steve Casimiro.

The victim allegedly became a drug addict after he was kicked out of the police force. Casimiro said the victim hanged himself and was found dead at around 1:45 p.m. Investigators said the victim had been depressed for sometime.

# New dates set for PRC examination

THE PROFESSIONAL Regulation Commission has announced that the Criminologists Licensure Examination scheduled on Feb. 26, 27, and 28, will be moved to March 28, 29, and 30 in the cities of Manila, Baguio, Cagayan de Oro, Cebu, Iloilo, Legazpi, and Tuguegarao.

The new deadline in filing applications is on March 10 at the PRC Central and Regional Offices.

# Traffic academy proposed

**By Leila Salaverria**

THE CREATION of a traffic academy is one of the projects Metro Manila Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando will bat for this year.

According to Fernando, he will present his idea to the mayors at the next meeting of the Metro Manila Council.

He said that while the academy is an MMDA project, he thought that it would be better if the project has the nod of the council to avoid any snags.

In an interview Tuesday, the MMDA chair said the traffic academy would be created "at once" and would probably hold office at the MMDA.

He said the school would bring about a slew of benefits for the traffic enforcers.

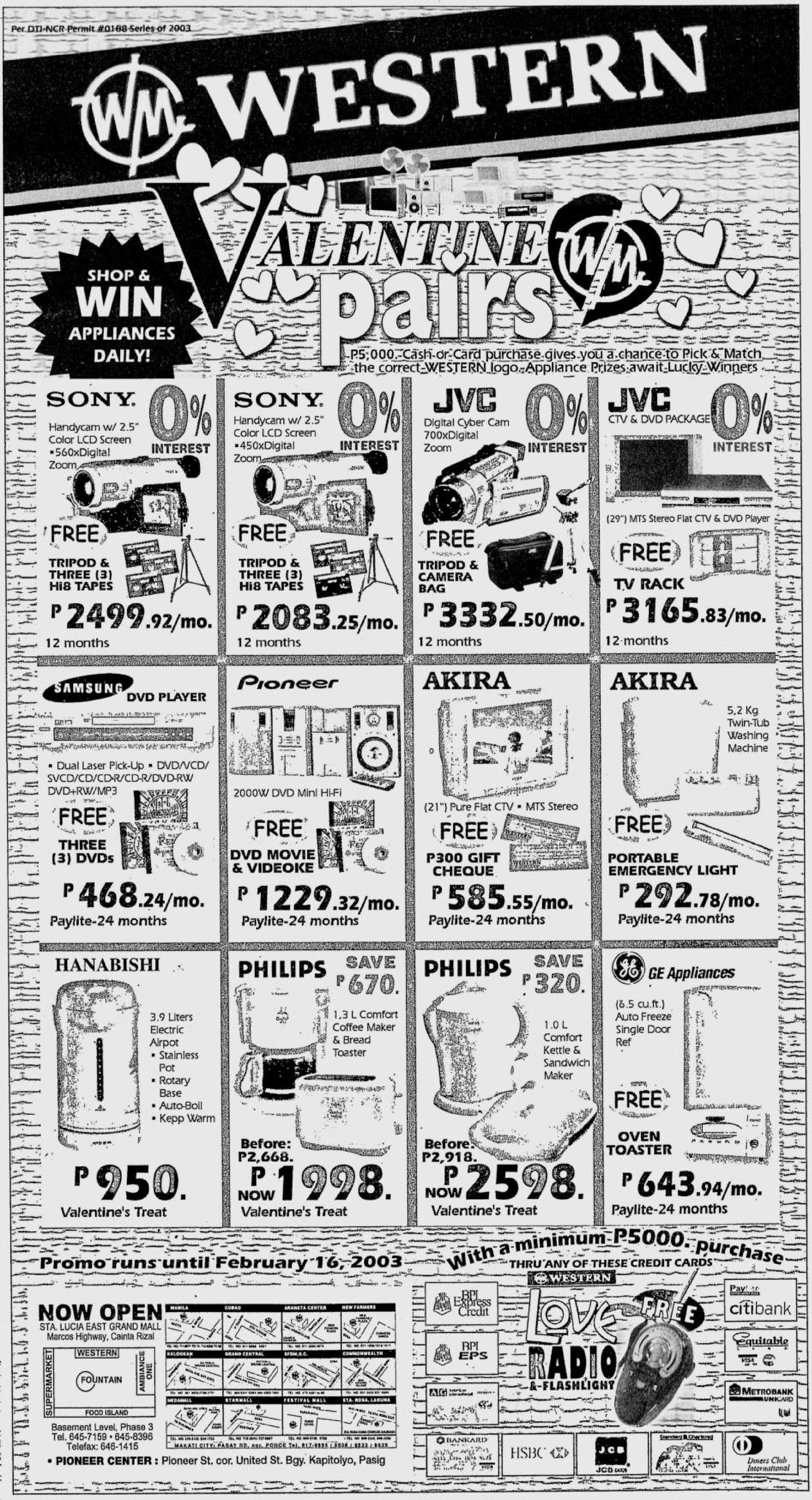
"(Their schooling in the academy) would add to the traffic enforcers' knowledge and know-how," Fernando said. "It would professionalize their ranks."

He said the academy's students would be taught the intricacies of the technical side of traffic enforcement as well as its practical side.

Fernando added that the existence of a traffic academy would ensure that the MMDA has a steady supply of well-trained enforcers.

"The recruitment of traffic personnel must be continuing because the number of enforcers is not constant," he said.

Last year, the MMDA sacked 119 traffic division employees.



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| 2 RING (ORIG. JAPANESE VERSION) | 2 TRY SEVENTEEN | 2 RING (ORIG. JAPANESE VERSION)<br>11:30, 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30 | 2 THE LORD OF THE RINGS: TWO TOWERS<br>12:30, 4:00, 7:30, 11:00 | 2 THE RING (HOLLYWOOD) |
| 3 THE LORD OF THE RINGS: TWO TOWERS | 3 8 MILE<br>12:45, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30, 9:45, 12:00 | Onstage<br>OGIE ALCASID: OA SA PUSO<br>Feb. 7, 8, 13, 14 & 15 | 3 ANALYZE THAT<br>1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30, 11:30 | 3 ANALYZE THAT |
| 4 THE HOT CHICK | 4 ANALYZE THAT | | 4 THE RING (HOLLYWOOD)<br>12:40, 2:50, 5:00, 7:10, 9:20, 11:30 | 4 ONE HOUR PHOTO |
| | 5 ONE HOUR PHOTO | | 5 TRY SEVENTEEN<br>1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:00, 11:00 | 5 THE HOT CHICK |
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| 3 | ONE HOUR PHOTO |
| 4 | ANALYZE THAT |
| 5 | LORD OF THE RING |
| 6 | 8 MILE |
| 7 | HOT CHICK |
| 8 | HALF PAST DEAD |
| 9 | ONE HOUR PHOTO |
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| 1 | RESERVE |
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| 3 | RESERVE |
| 4 | RESERVE |
| 5 | RESERVE |
| 6 | HALF PAST DEAD |
| Golden Pearl THX | LORD OF THE RING |

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| 3 | BANGKERO |

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| 1 | 8 MILE |
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| 3 | MATAMIS HANGGANG DULO |
| 4 | LORD OF THE RING |
| 5 | BANGKERO |

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| 2 | THE RING |
| 3 | HOT CHICK |
| 4 | 8 MILE |
| 5 | MATAMIS HANGGANG DULO |
| 6 | ANALYZE THAT |

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| 2 | HALF PAST DEAD |

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#### Gotesco City
(Manila) tel 734.8588

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| 1 | 8 MILE |
| 4 | HOT CHICK |
| 5 | TRY SEVENTEEN |
| 6 | MATAMIS HANGGANG DULO |
| 7 | ONE HOUR PHOTO |
| 8 | THE RING |
| 9 | LORD OF THE RING |

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| 2 | RESERVE |

#### Gotesco Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 365.7928

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| 1 | MATAMIS HANGGANG DULO |
| 2 | 8 MILE |
| 3 | HOT CHICK |
| 4 | HALF PAST DEAD |
| 5 | THE RING |
| 6 | LORD OF THE RING |
| 7 | ONE HOUR PHOTO |
| 8 | LASTIKMAN |
| 9 | BANGKERO |

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| 1 | MATAMIS HANGGANG DULO |
| 2 | LORD OF THE RING |
| 3 | THE RING |
| 4 | 8 MILE |
| 5 | HOT CHICK |

#### Gotesco Ortigas
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| 1 | 8 MILE |
| 2 | HALF PAST DEAD |
| 3 | LORD OF THE RING |
| 4 | MATAMIS HANGGANG DULO |
| 5 | THE RING |

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|---|---|
| 1 | MATAMIS HANGGANG DULO |

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| 1 | TRY SEVENTEEN |
| 2 | LORD OF THE RING |
| 3 | RESERVE |
| 4 | MATAMIS HANGGANG DULO |

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| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | LORD OF THE RING |
| 2 | 8 MILE |
| 3 | THE RING |
| 4 | MATAMIS HANGGANG DULO |
| 5 | ANALYZE THAT |

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| 2 | |

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| 2 | LORD OF THE RING |

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| 2 | THE RING |
| 3 | HOT CHICK |
| 4 | LOD OF THE RINGS 2 |
| 5 | TRY SEVENTEEN |
| 6 | ONE HOUR PHOTO |
| 7 | ANAYLYZE THAT |

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| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | MATAMIS HANGGANG DULO |
| 2 | LORD OF THE RINGS 2 |

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| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | BANGKERO |
| 2 | 8 MILE |
| 3 | LORD OF THE RING |

#### Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | THE RING |
| 2 | 8 MILE |
| 3 | LORD OF THE RING |
| 4 | HOT CHICK |

#### Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | THE RING |
| 2 | LORD OF THE RING |
| 3 | 8 MILE |
| 4 | HOT CHICK |

#### Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | SWIM FAN |
| 2 | HALF PAST DEAD |
| 3 | LORD OF THE RING |
| 4 | RESERVE |

#### Cinema 2000 MetroTown
(Tarlac) tel(045) 982.1729

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | BANGKERO |
| 2 | HEAVEN |
| 3 | HALF PAST DEAD |
| 4 | MANO PO |

### Magic Star Cinema
(Tarlac City) tel (045) 611.4305

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | HALF PAST DEAD |
| 2 | BANGKERO |
| 3 | AGIMAT |

### Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | LORD OF THE RING |
| 2 | RESERVE |
| 3 | THE RING |
| 4 | BANGKERO |

### Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | LORD OF THE RING |
| 2 | HOT CHICK |
| 3 | BANGKERO |
| 4 | THE RING |
| 5 | 8 MILE |

### Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | LORD OF THE RING |
| 2 | BANGKERO |
| 3 | THE RING |

### Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 249.2558

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | LORD OF THE RING |
| 2 | THE RING |
| 3 | 8 MILE |

### Mega Center Mall
(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | SWIMFAN |
| 2 | BIRTHDAY GIRL |
| 3 | DOUBLE SEDUCTION |
| 4 | LASTIKMAN |

### Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | RESERVE |
| 2 | RESERVE |

### Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | KERIDA |
| 2 | AGIMAT |
| 3 | BANGKERO |

### Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | KERIDA |
| 2 | SHAOLIN SOCCER |
| 3 | HALF PAST DEAD |
| 4 | LIKE MIKE |

### Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | LORD OF THE RING |
| 2 | HOT CHICK |
| 3 | 8 MILE |
| 4 | THE RING |

### Cine Nepo Mall
(Angeles City) tel (045) 322-3571

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | VOODOO |
| 2 | 8 MILE |
| 3 | HOT CHICK |
| 4 | LORD OF THE RING |

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BE THE FIRST TO WITNESS
THE LORD OF THE RINGS
THE TWO TOWERS
NOW SHOWING

---

# SM CINEMA
SM Dial-A-Movie Tel. 833-9999
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### SM CITY BACOOR
4173868

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | ONE HOUR PHOTO |
| 2 | TRY SEVENTEEN |
| 3 | 8 MILE |
| 4 | THE RING (HOLLYWOOD) |
| 5 | LOTR: THE TWO TOWERS |
| 6 | HOT CHICK |
| 7 | MATAMIS HANGGANG DULO |
| 8 | LASTIKMAN |

### SM CENTERPOINT
7149622 -7161416

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | TRY SEVENTEEN |
| 2 | ONE HOUR PHOTO |
| 3 | LOTR: THE TWO TOWERS |
| 4 | MATAMIS HANGGANG DULO |
| 5 | 8 MILE |
| 6 | HALF PAST DEAD |
| 7 | HOT CHICK |
| 8 | LOTR: THE TWO TOWERS |
| 9 | THE RING (HOLLYWOOD) |
| 10 | ANALYZE THAT |

### SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9350749

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | MANO PO |
| 2 | ANALYZE THAT |
| 3 | LASTIKMAN |
| 4 | LOTR: THE TWO TOWERS |
| 5 | 8 MILE |
| 6 | TRY SEVENTEEN |
| 7 | LOTR: THE TWO TOWERS |
| 8 | HOT CHICK |
| 9 | THE RING (HOLLYWOOD) |
| 10 | MATAMIS HANGGANG DULO |
| 11 | ONE HOUR PHOTO |
| 12 | HALF PAST DEAD |

### SM CITY MANILA
5239240

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | HOT CHICK |
| 2 | RING (JAPANESE) |
| 3 | 8 MILE |
| 4 | 8 MILE |
| 5 | TRY SEVENTEEN |
| 6 | LOTR: THE TWO TOWERS |
| 7 | LOTR: THE TWO TOWERS |
| 8 | MATAMIS HANGGANG DULO |
| 9 | THE RING (HOLLYWOOD) |
| 10 | ANALYZE THAT |
| 11 | ONE HOUR PHOTO |
| 12 | HALF PAST DEAD |

### SM MEGAMALL
6331601 • 6329401

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | 8 MILE |
| 2 | TRY SEVENTEEN |
| 3 | 8 MILE |
| 4 | LOTR: THE TWO TOWERS |
| 5 | RING (JAPANESE) |
| 6 | ANALYZE THAT |
| 7 | ONE HOUR PHOTO |
| 8 | LOTR: THE TWO TOWERS |
| 9 | HOT CHICK |
| 10 | THE RING (HOLLYWOOD) |
| 11 | HALF PAST DEAD |
| 12 | MATAMIS HANGGANG DULO |

### SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9296452

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | HOT CHICK |
| 2 | RING (JAPANESE) |
| 3 | TRY SEVENTEEN |
| 4 | ANALYZE THAT |
| 5 | ONE HOUR PHOTO |
| 6 | THE RING (HOLLYWOOD) |
| 7 | 8 MILE |
| 8 | LOTR: THE TWO TOWERS |

### SM SOUTHMALL
8006888

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | ANALYZE THAT |
| 2 | LOTR: THE TWO TOWERS |
| 3 | THE RING (HOLLYWOOD) |
| 4 | TRY SEVENTEEN |
| 5 | LASTIKMAN |
| 6 | HALF PAST DEAD |
| 7 | HOT CHICK |
| 8 | 8 MILE |
| 9 | ONE HOUR PHOTO |
| 10 | MATAMIS HANGGANG DULO |

### SM CITY CEBU
2313876

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | CHARLOTTE GRAY |
| 2 | HALF PAST DEAD |
| 3 | 8 MILE |
| 4 | MY BIG FAT GREEK WEDDING |
| 5 | BANGKERO |
| 6 | KERIDA |
| 7 | VAMPS |
| 8 | THE RING (HOLLYWOOD) |

### SM CITY ILOILO
3209422

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | KERIDA |
| 2 | CLOSED |
| 3 | HALF PAST DEAD |
| 4 | BROTHERHOOD OF THE WOLF |
| 5 | MY BIG FAT GREEK WEDDING |
| 6 | THE RING (HOLLYWOOD) |
| 7 | CLOSED |
| 8 | UNFAITHFUL CONCUBINE |

### SM CITY PAMPANGA
7128015

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | LOTR: THE TWO TOWERS |
| 2 | 8 MILE |
| 3 | SWIMFAN |
| 4 | THE RING (HOLLYWOOD) |
| 5 | KERIDA |
| 6 | HOT CHICK |

### SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
8294975

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | THE RING (HOLLYWOOD) |
| 2 | 8 MILE |
| 3 | TRY SEVENTEEN |
| 4 | ANALYZE THAT |

### SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | 8 MILE |
| 2 | TRY SEVENTEEN |
| 3 | THE RING (HOLLYWOOD) |
| 4 | MATAMIS HANGGANG DULO |

### SM CITY DAVAO
2976998

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | LOTR: THE TWO TOWERS |
| 2 | UNFAITHFUL CONCUBINE |
| 3 | LIKE MIKE |
| 4 | HALF PAST DEAD |
| 5 | 8 MILE |
| 6 | THE RING (HOLLYWOOD) |

### SM BICUTAN
776-3055

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | HOT CHICK |
| 2 | 8 MILE |
| 3 | TRY SEVENTEEN |
| 4 | LOTR: THE TWO TOWERS |

### SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
859-2884

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | THE RING (HOLLYWOOD) |
| 2 | KERIDA |
| 3 | SWIMFAN |
| 4 | HALF PAST DEAD |

### THE PODIUM CINEMA
633-8076

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | LOTR: THE TWO TOWERS<br>11:30 FS/12:00 MF/3:40/7:20/<br>10:30 LFS/11:00 LMF/2:10 END |
| 2 | 8 MILE<br>10:10 FS/10:30 MF/12:50/3:10/5:30/<br>7:50/9:40 LFS/10:10 LMF/12:00 END |

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NOW SHOWING

### Galleria
632- 9115- 16
633- 7641 loc. 279

| | |
|---|---|
| THX | LORD OF THE RINGS II - 11:00 AM (MF); 2:30 PM; 6:00 PM; 9:30 PM (LMF) |
| 2 | HOT CHICK |
| 3 | ANALYZE THAT |
| 4 | ONE HOUR PHOTO |
| 5 | 8 MILE |
| 6 | LORD OF THE RINGS II |
| 7 | HALF PAST DEAD |
| 8 | THE RING (US VERSION) |
| 9 | RING (JAPANESE VERSION) |
| 10 | TRY SEVENTEEN |

MATINEE PRICE: P80 THX cinema / P65 1level cinemas
Mon.- Fri. / 10am- 4pm (EXCEPT HOLIDAYS)

### Ermita
536 -7809- 12

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | LORD OF THE RINGS II |
| 2 | THE RING (US VERSION) |
| 3 | ONE HOUR PHOTO |
| 4 | RING (JAPANESE VERSION) |
| 5 | ANALYZE THAT |
| 6 | HOT CHICK |
| 7 | 8 MILE |

### Metro East - Marcos hway
682- 8193 / 8280

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | THE RING (US VERSION) |
| 2 | LORD OF THE RINGS II |
| 3 | ANALYZE THAT |
| 4 | HOT CHICK |
| 5 | HALF PAST DEAD |
| 6 | 8 MILE |
| 7 | ONE HOUR PHOTO |
| 8 | LASTIKMAN |

### Novaliches
935- 3229 - 30

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | LORD OF THE RINGS II |
| 2 | THE RING (US VERSION) |
| 3 | HOT CHICK |
| 4 | 8 MILE |
| 5 | ONE HOUR PHOTO |
| 6 | ANALYZE THAT |
| 7 | TRY SEVENTEEN |
| 8 | HALF PAST DEAD |

### Malabon Citisquare
288-0985 / 288-2575

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | 8 MILE |
| 2 | LORD OF THE RING II |
| 3 | HOT CHICK |
| 4 | THE RING (US VERSION) |

### Star Mills- Sn. Fernando, Pamp.
875- 1927
961- 5318 / 5270

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | 8 MILE |
| 2 | SWIMFAN |
| 3 | HOT CHICK |
| 4 | KERIDA |
| 5 | THE RING (US VERSION) |
| 6 | LORD OF THE RINGS II |

### Imus
471- 8188 / 875- 3838

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | LORD OF THE RINGS II |
| 2 | THE RING (US VERSION) |
| 3 | HOT CHICK] |
| 4 | ANALYZE THAT |
| 5 | ONE HOUR PHOTO |
| 6 | TRY SEVENTEEN |

### Sta. Rosa Laguna
049-8370907

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | LORD OF THE RINGS II |
| 2 | THE RING (US VERSION) |
| 3 | 8 MILE |
| 4 | BANGKERO |
| 5 | HOT CHICK |

### Bacolod
441- 0453 / 0459

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | THE RING (US VERSION) |
| 2 | 8 MILE |
| 3 | HALF PAST DEAD |
| 4 | SWIMFAN |
| 5 | BROTHERHOOD OF THE WOLF |
| 6 | LAPU-LAPU |

### Iloilo
336- 8077 - 78

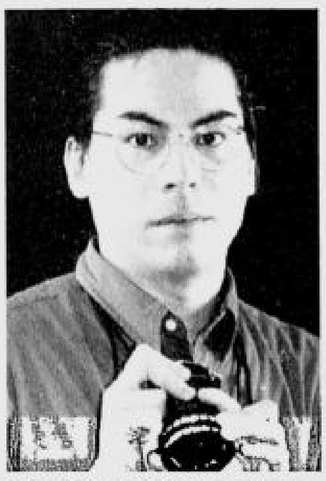
| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | THE RING (US VERSION) |
| 2 | HALF PAST DEAD |
| 3 | MY BIG FAT GREEK WEDDING |
| 4 | UNFAITHFUL CONCUVINE |
| 5 | DOUBLE SEDUCTION |
| 6 | KERIDA |

MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

# Joey Reyes: We're not giving up the fight against VAT

**By Marinel R. Cruz**

**REYES.** Official spokesperson of the entertainment sector.



**SIGUION-REYNA.** Raised four points to the government.

> 'How does government distinguish income tax, as levied on income, from the VAT as levied on income? In effect, the VAT acts as a second tax on income'

DIRECTOR Jose Javier Reyes yesterday insisted the entertainment industry is not giving up the fight against the 10 percent value-added tax (VAT).

"But we don't want to be caught flat-footed in the event that its imposition be approved by the President," said an adamant Reyes, who spoke in behalf of the Director's Guild of the Philippines, Inc. (DGPI).

The noted director shared his sentiments about the impending imposition of the 10-percent VAT on professionals like entertainers, doctors, lawyers, accountants and athletes.

Last Monday, several members of the entertainment industry, with the medical and legal sectors, aired their protest against the 10-percent VAT increase by marching to the Senate. But the government remained unmoved.

President Macapagal-Arroyo, through Palace Spokesperson Ignacio Bunye, announced that she would not ask Congress to defer once more the VAT's imposition because it has already been deferred several times since it took effect in 1994. Bunye added that the renewal of the exemption would cost the country P8.6 billion in uncollected revenue.

## Imposition

According to Reyes, the imposition of the new VAT would be tantamount to changing the way business is done in the country.

He said it is not the big-time production studios that would be affected by the imposition of the additional tax, but the small and independent producers.

"Instead of encouraging the producers, the 10-percent VAT would only make them think twice about making movies," he said.

Reyes pointed out several members of the DGPI had already asked tax consultants to explain the mechanics of the VAT in case the president finally decides to impose it. The directors want a clear definition of the items that are subjected to VAT and those which are not.

"*Ilan lang ba sa amin ang marunong ng* taxation?," said Reyes. "Up to now, there are still questions about the VAT that we could not answer. The government should have launched a dissemination campaign before they decided to implement the law."

## Expenses

According to Reyes, there are two kinds of VAT. The input VAT is considered operating costs that taxpayers could deduct from their output VAT.

The output VAT is the money that taxpayers owe the government. It is 10 percent of the total cost of all their business transactions in a year.

"Imagine *mekanikos* and *manikyuristas* issuing receipts so their services to entertainers can be deducted from the latter's output VAT," Reyes complained.

The director, who also acts as the entertainment sector's official spokesperson, said the group is scheduled to meet on Saturday to discuss their next move after an unsuccessful dialogue with Finance Secretary Isidro Camacho last Jan. 21.

Reyes said what was encouraging about their meeting with Camacho was his promise that there would be more talks about the VAT between the government and the sectors involved.

Reyes added Camacho promised to study the uniqueness of each transaction and identify the difficulties that tax payers might encounter.

Meanwhile, director and DGPI president Carlitos Siguion-Reyna sent a letter to the INQUIRER last Wednesday to "clarify certain points that the newspaper earlier reported about the DGPI's stand on the VAT."

In his letter, Siguion-Reyna said that the participants of the Jan. 20 rally are raising four points to the government.

First is that the professionals are pushing for the abolition of the value-added tax but only "on the services of the non-salaried professional."

## Services

Siguion-Reyna said that by its nature, the VAT is a tax-on added value. This process, he added, is "clear in the various stages of the manufacturing industry when every stage of refining raw materials is adding value to the product and is levied from the VAT.

"But when an employer hires the services of a non-salaried professional, what value is added to the provision of which is not already paid for by the professional's income tax?" the director wrote.

"How does government distinguish income tax, as levied on income, from the VAT as levied on income? In effect, the VAT acts as a second tax on income."

Second, that the professionals are pushing for the amendment of the tax law to permanently exclude professionals "not from paying taxes as the paper stated, but from inclusion among certain VAT-able categories."

He said professionals are not pushing to avoid paying all taxes but that they regard the additional VAT "as an added and unjust burden to people already reeling from taxes."

Third, that the professionals are requesting the government to streamline and make stricter its collections of existing taxes, most especially big companies that evade taxes through various means.

Lastly, the government should raise funds by reducing the tax breaks and exemptions granted to multinational corporations, instead of adding more oppressive taxes to the professional sector and the general public.

## *GMA 7 to provide live coverage of World Meeting of Familes*

GMA 7 will telecast live the 4th World Meeting of Families today, 5 p.m. to midnight, followed by a replay which will run up to 3 a.m.

On Jan. 26 (Sunday), GMA 7 will also air a live coverage of the closing mass from 7 to 9 a.m. at the Quirino Grandstand, Rizal Park. It will be celebrated by His Eminence Alfonso Cardinal Lopez Trujillo, the official papal delegate, with over 1,000 cardinals, bishops and priests from all over the world.

THEATRE MALL
GREENHILLS
a landmark reinvented!
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX
NOW SHOWING
CINEMA 1 LORD OF THE RINGS 2
11:20, 2:50, 6:20, 9:50
GP
CINEMA 2 THE RING
11:20, 1:40, 4:00, 6:20, 8:40
P13
TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.
GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER, ORTIGAS AVENUE, GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA • 7224496
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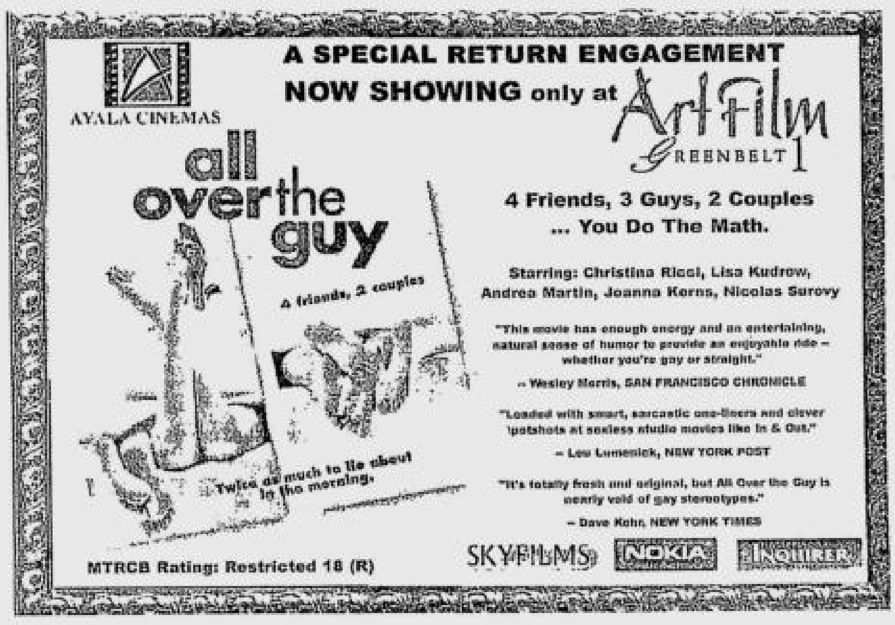
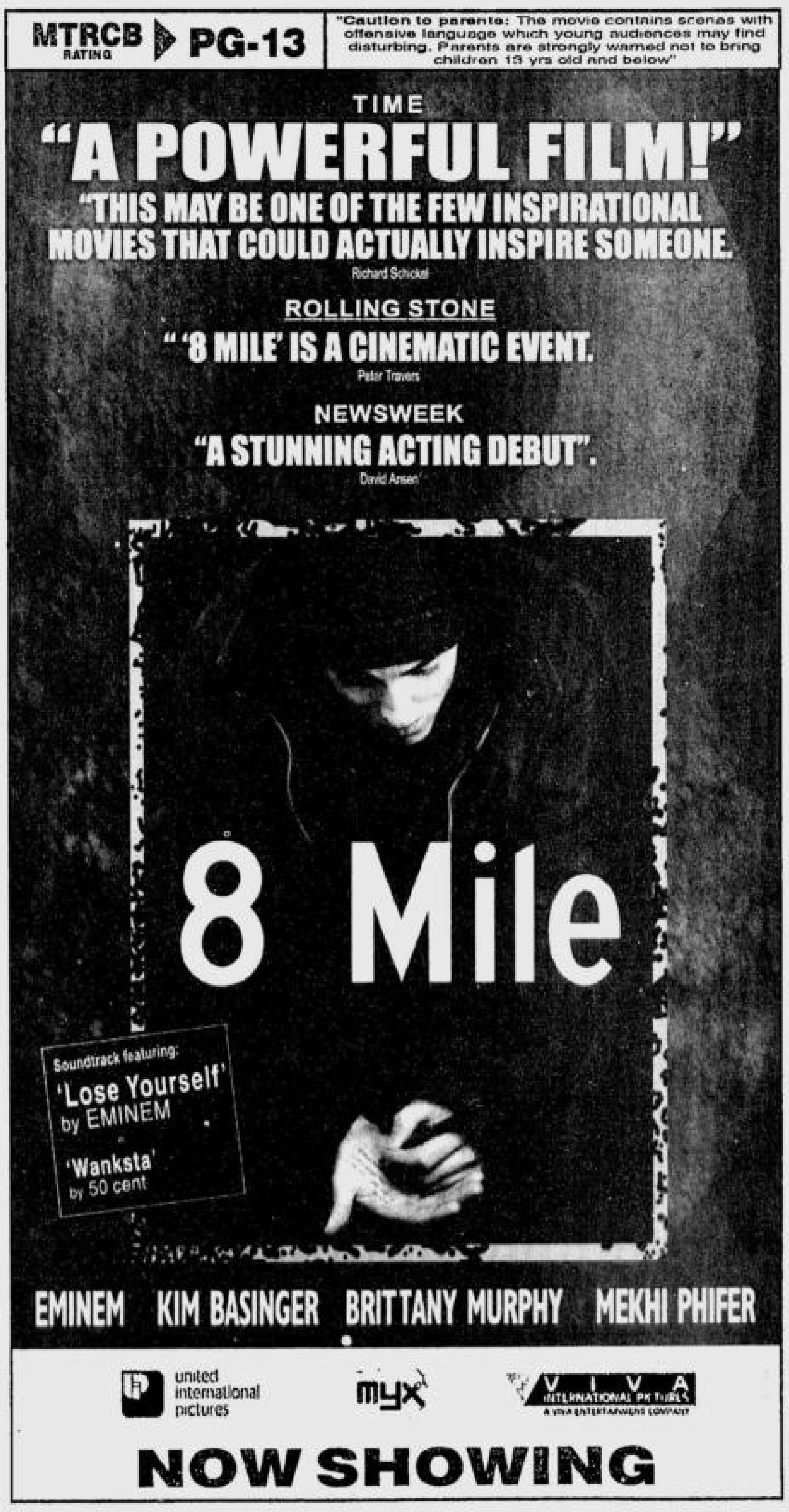


AYALA CINEMAS
A SPECIAL RETURN ENGAGEMENT
NOW SHOWING only at ArtFilm Greenbelt 1
all over the guy
4 friends, 2 couples
Twice as much to lie about in the morning.
4 Friends, 3 Guys, 2 Couples ... You Do The Math.
Starring: Christina Ricci, Lisa Kudrow, Andrea Martin, Joanna Kerns, Nicolas Surovy
"This movie has enough energy and an entertaining, natural sense of humor to provide an enjoyable ride – whether you're gay or straight."
– Wesley Morris, SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE
"Loaded with smart, sarcastic one-liners and clever potshots at sexless studio movies like In & Out."
– Lou Lumenick, NEW YORK POST
"It's totally fresh and original, but All Over the Guy is nearly void of gay stereotypes."
– Dave Kehr, NEW YORK TIMES
MTRCB Rating: Restricted 18 (R)
SKYFILMS NOKIA INQUIRER

VIVA CONCERTS
A VIVA ENTERTAINMENT COMPANY
& myx
present
SIDE A FREESTYLE
in a Valentine Special
Love x 2
with guests: Hotlegs & Manoeuvres
February 14, 2003 8pm Araneta Coliseum
tickets available at Araneta ticketnet (tel. no. 911-5555), SM ticketnet outlets & Viva office (tel.no.: 413-2672)
ticket prices: 1,000 800 500 150
Close up



MTRCB RATING PG-13
"Caution to parents: The movie contains scenes with offensive language which young audiences may find disturbing. Parents are strongly warned not to bring children 13 yrs old and below"
TIME
"A POWERFUL FILM!"
"THIS MAY BE ONE OF THE FEW INSPIRATIONAL MOVIES THAT COULD ACTUALLY INSPIRE SOMEONE.
Richard Schickel
ROLLING STONE
"'8 MILE' IS A CINEMATIC EVENT.
Peter Travers
NEWSWEEK
"A STUNNING ACTING DEBUT".
David Ansen
8 Mile
Soundtrack featuring:
'Lose Yourself' by EMINEM
'Wanksta' by 50 cent
EMINEM KIM BASINGER BRITTANY MURPHY MEKHI PHIFER
united international pictures
myx
VIVA INTERNATIONAL PICTURES
A VIVA ENTERTAINMENT COMPANY
NOW SHOWING

# Album launch

SUGAR Free launches their debut album, "Sa Wakas," Jan. 25 at Freedom Bar in Anonas St., Quezon City.

Composed of vocalist Ebe Dancel, bassist Jal Taguibao and drummer Mitch Singson, Sugar Free brings to their album a heady mix of the sounds of popular bands like Popsicle, Oasis, Rivermaya and Eraserheads.

"Sa Wakas" contains 12 tracks which include the samba-flavored carrier single, "Telepono," an ode to love-sick phone freaks.

Other cuts include the haunting piece "Unang Araw," the old-fashioned rock n' roll ditty "Taguan" and the mellow track "Fade Away."

Produced by Rico Blanco of Rivermaya and Angee Rozul, "Sa Wakas" is released by EMI Music Philippines.

# Acting workshops

GRUPONG Tinta in collaboration with the UP Film Center will offer a repeat of basic acting workshop for film and TV in February and March.

The acting workshop will be handled by Carlitos Siguion-Reyna, Mel Chionglo, Malou de Guzman and Rahyan Carlos among others.

The directors will shoot a telesine as the output of the acting workshop to showcase the prowess of the workshoppers before talent managers, TV and movie producers.

The basic acting workshop for teens and adults (16 years old and above) offers 10 sessions, Saturdays and Sundays (2 to 6 p.m.) for five consecutive weekends.

Registrations will be held Jan. 25 and 26 (Saturday and Sunday, 1 to 6 p.m.) at the Up Film Center, Diliman, Quezon City.

For more details, call 456-2084 or 0916-5823085. Look for Rahayn Carlos.

# Billy . . .

From page A32

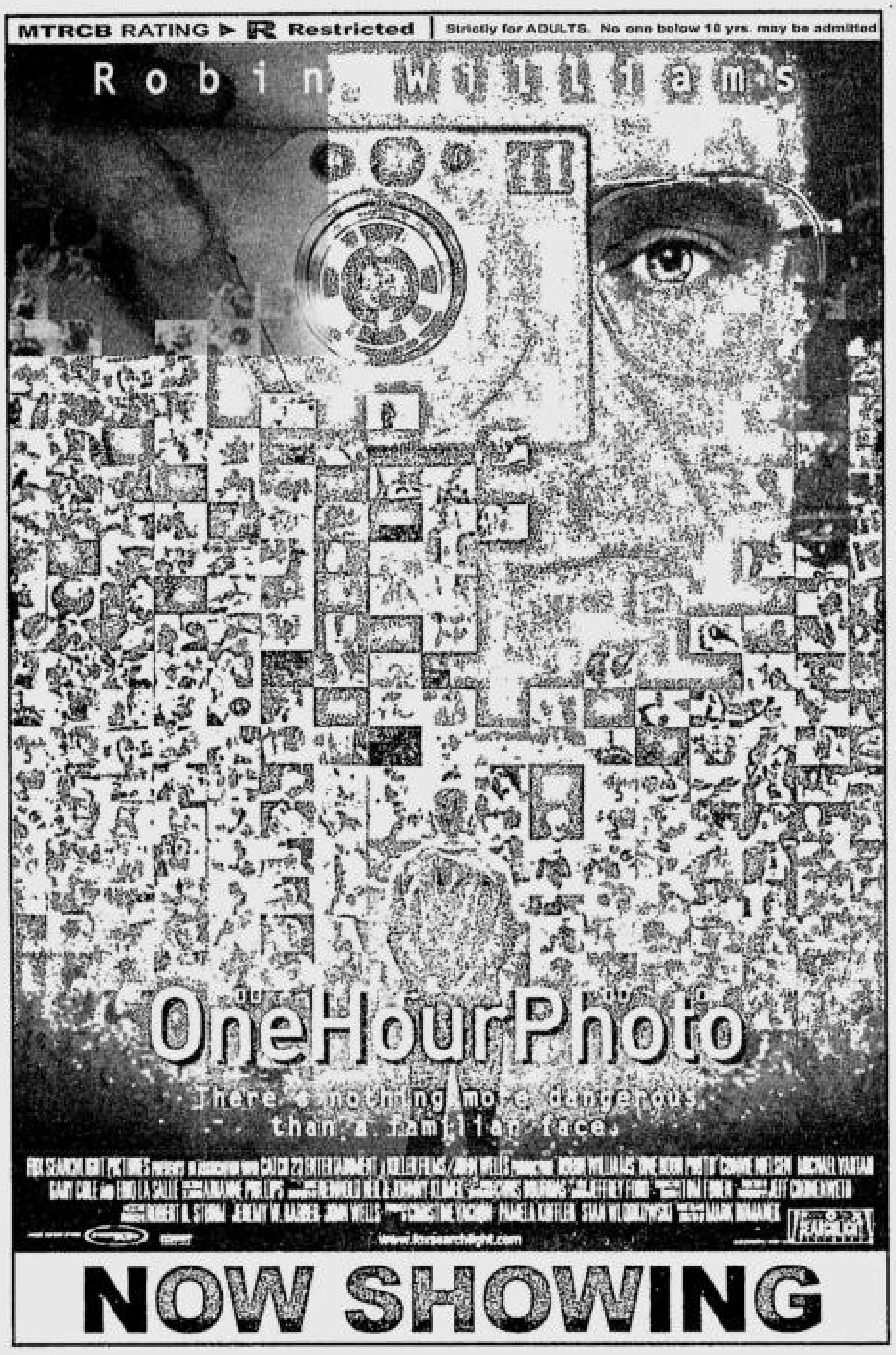
but was diagnosed with bronchitis and was hospitalized. On the day he was released from the hospital, he reportedly had a bad fall and crushed his jaw. Doctors had to hold it together with wires. Thankfully, Billy's jaw healed in time for his performance at Cannes. Once it's completely healed, Billy will return to Europe to promote "Ride."

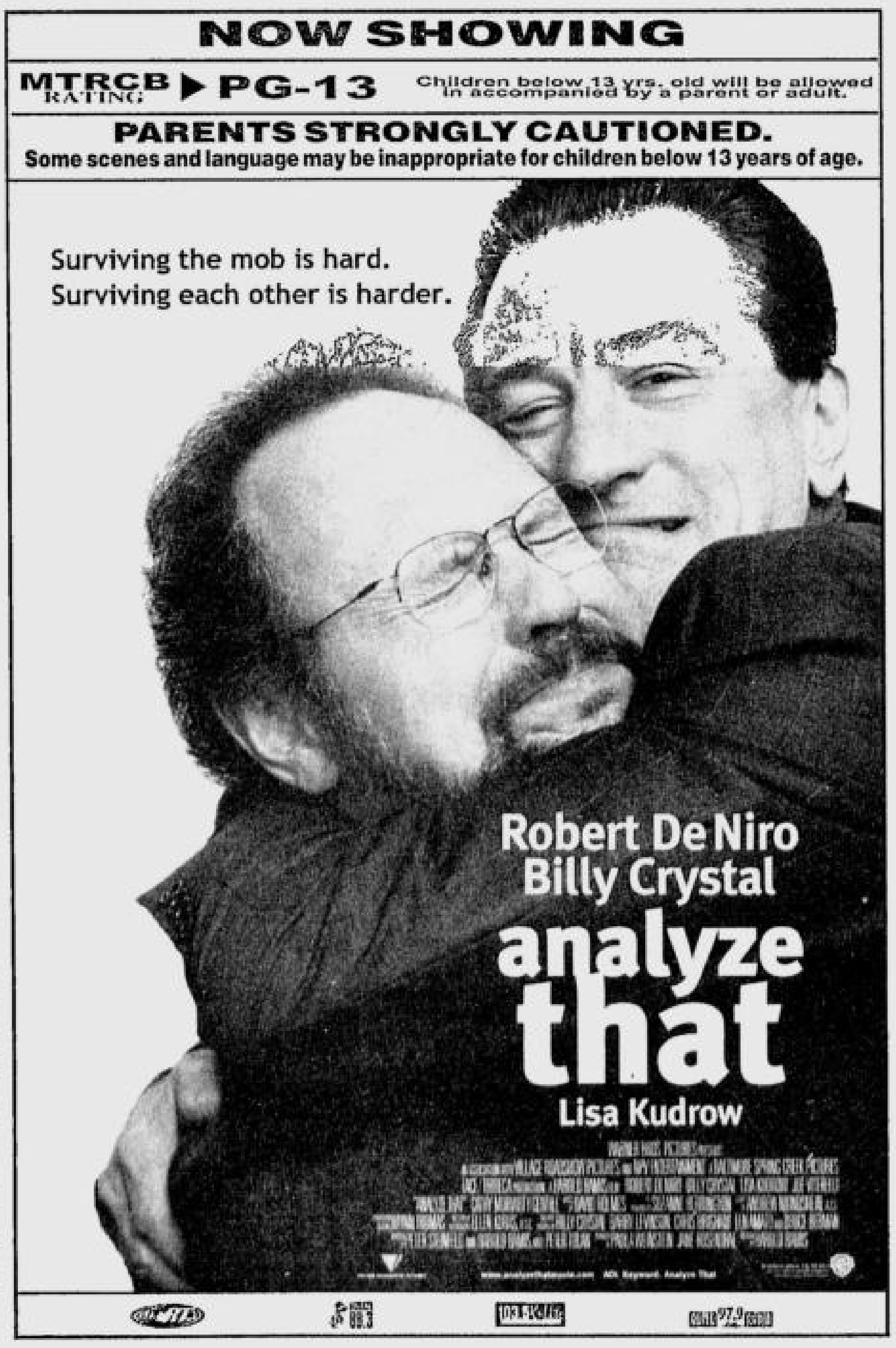
After performing in Cannes, Billy flew to Morocco for the filming of the latest "Exorcist" saga. The film, to be directed by **Paul Schrader**, will be the prequel to the 1973 cult movie.

In the latest screenplay, a young priest, Father Merrin is on an archaeological expedition in East Africa when his faith is shaken by a young man (Crawford) who becomes possessed by the devil.

"Exorcist: The Prequel" is due for release in the United States this July and in Europe in September.

MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 PARENTS STRONGLY CAUTIONED
Parents are strongly warned against bringing children below 13. Some scenes can offend them.
NOW SHOWING
Elijah Wood Mandy Moore Franka Potente
Try Seventeen
PENSHOPPE
SOLAR
SOLAR SPORTS
A SOLAR FILMS RELEASE


MTRCB RATING ▶ R Restricted | Strictly for ADULTS. No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted
Robin Williams
One Hour Photo
There's nothing more dangerous than a familiar face.
www.foxsearchlight.com
NOW SHOWING


NOW SHOWING
MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will be allowed in accompanied by a parent or adult.
PARENTS STRONGLY CAUTIONED.
Some scenes and language may be inappropriate for children below 13 years of age.
Surviving the mob is hard.
Surviving each other is harder.
Robert De Niro
Billy Crystal
analyze that
Lisa Kudrow

MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 | Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.
"Catch it while you can. Movies don't get much more fun than this. One of the best films of the year."
Good Morning America - Joel Siegel
leonardo dicaprio tom hanks
"It's a tribute to Spielberg's gifts as a director of suspense...a wonderful film."
Premiere Magazine - Glenn Kenny
"The nicest movie you could ask for...a gently funny, sweetly adventurous film that makes you feel genuinely good..."
Time Magazine - Richard Schickel
"Spielberg has forged Hanks and DiCaprio into a beguiling,exuberant movie."
The Today Show - Gene Shalit
A STEVEN SPIELBERG FILM
catch me if you can
The true story of a real fake.
united international pictures
CATCH THEM ON JANUARY 29
VIVA INTERNATIONAL PICTURES

"GUSTO KONG MAG-EKSPERIMENTO..."
raymond bagatsing carlo maceda
katya santos
Sukdulan
hanggang saan ka sasabay?
hanggang kailan ka bibigay?
VIVA
DIRECTED BY MAC C. ALEJANDRE
OPENS JANUARY 29

# Mariah's back, and she's up again with new album

AFTER her very public meltdown, Mariah Carey is up and back again via "Through the Rain," the first single from her newest album, "Charmbracelet" from MCA Universal.

Immediately after its radio premier last Christmas season, "Through the Rain" became one of the most requested tunes on radio.

"Charmbracelet" has turned gold and is projected to hit the platinum mark before the Valentine season next month. The album showcases Mariah's stunning voice, prolific songwriting talent and incredible versatility.

Mariah's career is now the stuff of legend. She has become the best-selling performer of all time, with 15 No. 1 hit singles so far. She consistently dominated the international music charts throughout the '90s.

# Who is Project A?

FOR MORE than a month now, Project A has been a constant presence on FM radio with their song "Only Love," from their debut album "Endless Road."

The song is easy to like because it has a catchy melody.

But who, or what, is Project A? No substantial information has been provided about the team behind the new record. And Project A's CD inlay does not carry either photographs or a website address that fans can log on to for information.

Now it can be told. The men behind Project A are actually well-respected, much-sought-after players in the music business.

"Endless Road" is a six-track CD album by a powerhouse cast of Filipino musicians led by Mark Feist as producer, arranger and keyboardist.

Others in the group are Dave Lava on electric guitar, Noel Mendez on acoustic guitar, Bobby Taylo on bassguitar and Tots Tolentino on sax.

Their debut album is produced by UniGram for Galaxy Records.

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| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ONE HOUR PHOTO<br>R18<br>1:20,3:30,5:40,<br>7:50,10:00 | 8 MILE<br>P13<br>12:50,3:10,5:30,<br>7:50,10:10 | ANALYZE THAT<br>P13<br>1:30,3:40,5:50,<br>8:00,10:10 |
| HOT CHICK<br>P13<br>1:10,3:20,5:30,<br>7:40,9:50 | THE RING<br>P13<br>12:40,3:00,5:20,<br>7:40,10:00 | LORD OF THE RINGS<br>"TWO TOWERS"<br>GP<br>12:00,3:20,6:40,10:00 |

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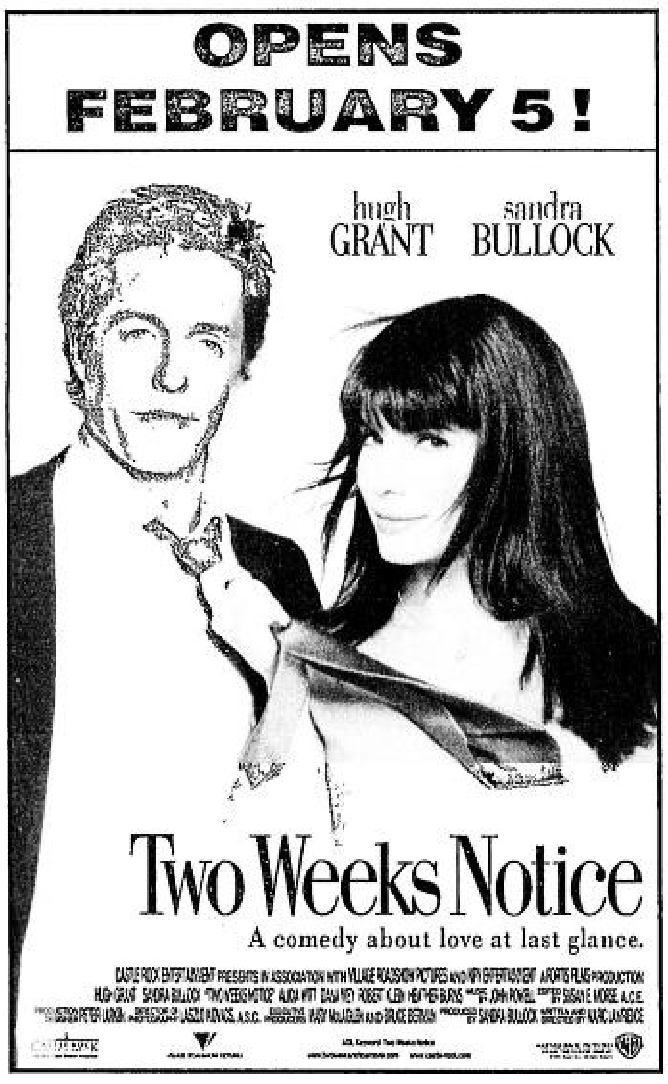
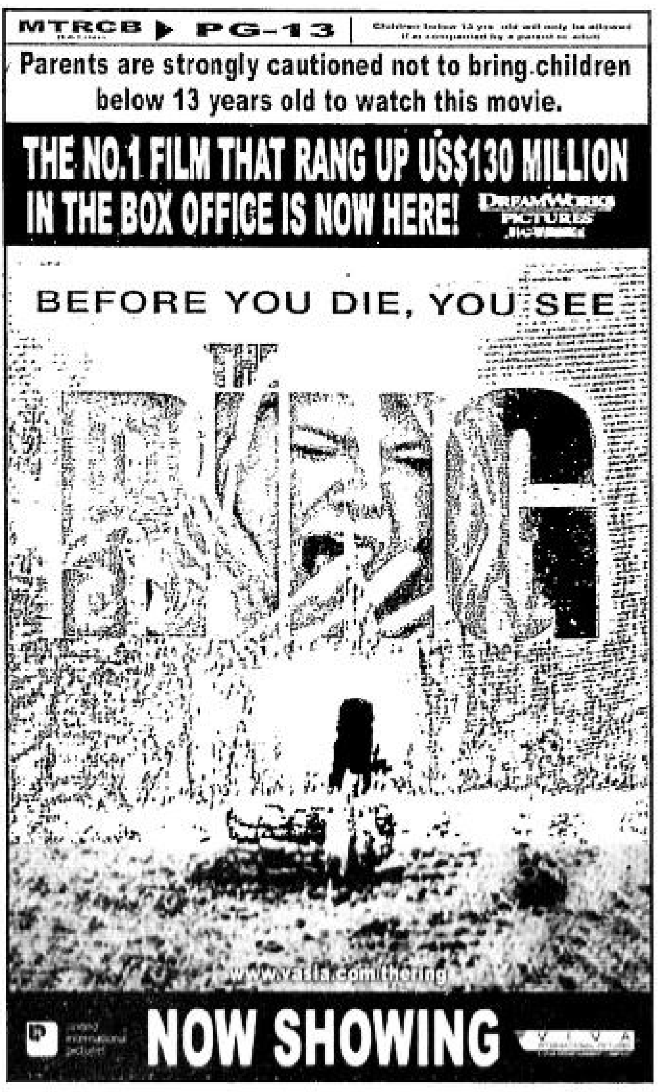
OPENS JANUARY 29 !
Ms. GLORIA ROMERO Ms. CELIA RODRIGUEZ AMY AUSTRIA
DANILO BARRIOS MARK GIL CHERRY PIE PICACHE
ALBERT MARTINEZ TONTON GUTIERREZ
and LORNA TOLENTINO
JIRO MANIO as
MAGNIFICO
Introducing
GIRLIE SEVILLA
*Walang katumbas ang wagas na pagmamahal*
ALLISON VII GONZALES
JON ROMANO & SUSAN AFRICA
ISABELLA DE LEON
DINDIN LLARENA JOSEPH ROBLE
Theme song sung by:
GARY VALENCIANO
Directed by Maryo J. de los Reyes, DGPI
A Violett Films Production
RELEASED THROUGH GMA FILMS

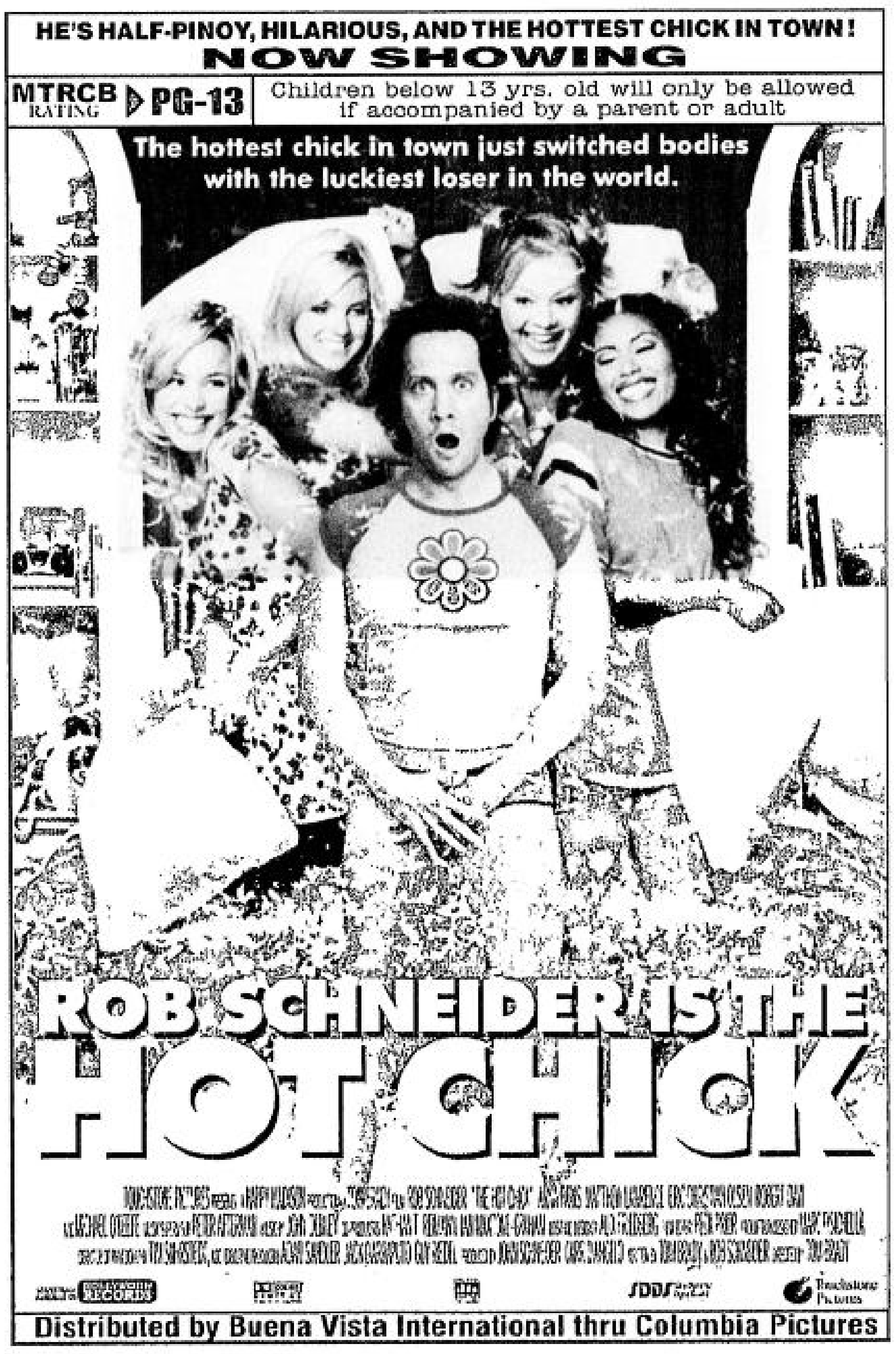

OPENS FEBRUARY 5 !
hugh GRANT sandra BULLOCK
Two Weeks Notice
A comedy about love at last glance.


MTRCB ▶ PG-13
Parents are strongly cautioned not to bring children below 13 years old to watch this movie.
THE NO.1 FILM THAT RANG UP US$130 MILLION IN THE BOX OFFICE IS NOW HERE!
DREAMWORKS PICTURES
BEFORE YOU DIE, YOU SEE
THE RING
NOW SHOWING

FREE TRIP TO NEW ZEALAND AT AYALA CINEMAS
WIN A FREE TRIP FOR TWO TO NEW ZEALAND AT AYALA CINEMAS WHEN YOU WATCH
THE LORD OF THE RINGS
EXPLORE THE WORLD OF MIDDLE EARTH
A JOURNEY TO NEW ZEALAND
SEE POSTERS AND LEAFLETS FOR MORE DETAILS.
Promo runs from Jan 11 to Feb 9, 2003.
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0102. Series of 2003.
Special Thanks to:
PIONEER MANILA BULLETIN BUFFALO

AYALA CINEMAS
OPENS JAN. 29 only at
ArtFilm GREENBELT 1
Off Key, aka Desafinado, is a Spanish comedy made in English featuring an international cast.
It is the story of three operatic tenors who performed all over the world together, until a disastrous performance in Mexico City, where they split for good. Now, they are getting together at the French Villa for the wedding of one of the three tenors to the daughter of another. To further complicate things, the bride's mother is married to the third trio member now. The father of the bride, who has fallen on hard times, hires a hooker to accompany him, and to help with his plot to reunite the trio as performers. The groom-to-be has a son, who isn't really his, and who secretly has the hots for the bride's mother.
Starring:
Danny Aiello, George Hamilton, Joe Mantegna
Anna Galiena & Ariadna Gil
OFFKEY
MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13
SKYFILMS NOKIA INQUIRER

SUSMARYOSEP... THE ORIGINAL IS BACK!
SHOCK ALERT:
YOU PROBABLY WANT TO SEE THIS MOST-TALKED ABOUT HORROR FILM AGAIN AND AGAIN.
YOU ARE WARNED NOT TO ANTICIPATE THOSE SCARY SCENES THAT MAKE YOU SCREAM...
HOLD YOUR BREATH UNTIL THE SCENES ACTUALLY APPEAR ON THE SCREEN THEN LET GO...
AT SUMIGAW KA HANGGAT'T GUSTO MO !!!
MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13
Experience Fear Worse Than Nightmare!!!
Ring
Circle of Evil
"There's a video. If you see it you have to show it to someone else. After seven days... you die!


HE'S HALF-PINOY, HILARIOUS, AND THE HOTTEST CHICK IN TOWN !
NOW SHOWING
MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult
The hottest chick in town just switched bodies with the luckiest loser in the world.
ROB SCHNEIDER IS THE HOT CHICK
Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures

Araneta Center
ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ALI MALL CINEPLEX 7

| | |
|---|---|
| Ali 1 | 8 MILE |
| Ali 2 | THE RING |
| Ali 3 | HOT CHICK |
| Ali 4 | LOD OF THE RINGS 2 |
| Ali 5 | TRY SEVENTEEN |
| Ali 6 | ONE HOUR PHOTO |
| Ali 7 | ANAYLYZE THAT |

FARMERS PLAZA CINEMAS

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|---|---|
| Farmers 1 | MATAMIS HANGGANG DULO |
| Farmers 2 | LORD OF THE RINGS 2 |

ARANETA COLISEUM

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|---|---|
| JAN 24 | 2003 WORLD SLASHER CUP |
| FEB 3 & 5 | NCA 7 COCK DERBY |
| FEB 15 | ABBA TRIBUTE CONCERT |

ELEPHANT WORLD

| | |
|---|---|
| JAN. 24 | 3 PM |
| JAN. 25 | 3 PM / 5 PM |
| JAN 26 | 3 PM / 5 PM |

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA

| | |
|---|---|
| EASTERN | |
| MAXIM | CLOSED |
| MIRAMAR | ALIAS BOMBA QUEEN / EROTIC DIARIES |
| ODEON | BANGKERO |
| ODEON-2 | PAKAWALANG PUSO / APOY SA MAGDAMAG |
| ROBEN | MATAMIS HANGGANG DULO |
| TANDEM-1 | SUGAT |
| TANDEM-2 | KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO |
| TIMES | FRAILTY / BALLISTIC |

QUEZON CITY

| | |
|---|---|
| ACT-1 | SENSUAL ISLAND |
| ACT-2 | KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT |
| ACT-3 | ORIGINAL SIN |
| ACT-4 | HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY |
| CORONET A | THE TOUCH / BALLISTIC |
| CORONET B | DOUBLE SEDUCTION |
| QUEZON-1 | MATAMIS HANGGANG DULO |
| REMAR | MATAMIS HANGGANG DULO |
| REMAR-2 | BANGKERO |

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

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|---|---|
| A | BANGKERO |
| B | MATAMIS HANGGANG DULO |
| C | |

MANDALUYONG CITY

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|---|---|
| SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL | 635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70 |
| CINEMA-1 | THE LORD OF THE RING |
| CINEMA-2 | ANALYZE THAT |

CAINTA RIZAL

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|---|---|
| STA. LUCIA EAST | (681-5401 TO 19) |
| CINEMA-1 | BANGKERO |
| CINEMA-2 | KERIDA |
| CINEMA-3 | SPIRIT WARRIORS 2 |
| CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL) | LORD OF THE RINGS 2 |
| CINEMA-5 (DTS) | DIE ANOTHER DAY |
| CINEMA-6 | LASTIKMAN |
| CINEMA-7 | DEKADA '70 |
| CINEMA-8 | MANO PO |
| CINEMA-9 (DTS) | LORD OF THE RINGS 2 |
| CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL) | LORD OF THE RINGS 2 |
| CINEMA-11 (SDDS) | LORD OF THE RINGS 2 |
| CINEMA-12 | HALF PAST DEAD |
| CINEMA-14 | HEAVEN |
| CINEMA-15 | RING |

LORES

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| CINEMA-2 | SENSUAL ISLAND |
| CINEMA-3 | KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT |

NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN

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| CINEMA 1 | DIE ANOTHER DAY |
| CINEMA 2 | BAHID |
| CINEMA 3 | HARRY POTTER |
| CINEMA 4 | CHANGING LANE |

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

| | |
|---|---|
| (PARANAQUE) | SENSUAL ISLAND |
| CINEMA-1 | KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT |
| CINEMA-2 | MEN IN BLACK II |
| CINEMA-4 | SELDA |

E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Louie C. Camino

# Multi-media approach makes film franchises more profitable than ever

## VIEWFINDER

*Nestor U. Torre*

OF LATE, a new term has become popular in Hollywood: film franchise. It refers to movie concepts that are so popular that they are filmed again and again through the years.

The granddaddy of them all is the James Bond franchise, to which a new film is added every three years or so. Next, the Star Trek TV-film series has been reaping profits since 1966.

Now that a new Star Trek movie ("Star Trek Nemesis") is about to be shown, that particular franchise can give other producers viable ideas on how they too can latch onto a good thing and benefit from it by way of a multi-media approach.

Some impressive statistics: the Star Trek franchise has earned a collective worldwide gross of more than $1B! In addition, it has gone heavily into merchandising of toys and other products related to the TV-film series, with even more money earned—over $3.5B!

More recently, in 1998, the people who hold the rights to the sci-fi franchise went into the theme park business. Star Trek: The Experience is a 65,000-square-foot theme park in Las Vegas which has had more than 2.2 M visitors since it opened.

And then there are the Star Trek books, of which millions of copies are sold each year. Thus, the success of the Star trek film franchise should motivate producers to also adopt a multi-media approach in developing their TV-film projects.

This is a lesson that needs to be learned by local producers, who are exclusively box-office oriented when it comes to profiting from their products. As the Star Trek grosses show, producers stand to make even more money from merchandising and spin-off prospects than from their movies themselves.

What's new with Star Trek? In "Star Trek Nemesis," Capt. Jean-Luc Picard (**Patrick Stewart**) and the the Enterprise crew find themselves on a diplomatic mission to initiate peace with the Romulans. But when they reach the alien planet, the crew is faced with a threat that could lead to Earth's destruction—and Picard meets his most dangerous adversary yet.

The twist is that this terrifying foe is a surprisingly personal nemesis for the captain—namely, a human replica of Picard himself, originally bioengineered by the Romulans to be substituted for the captain as a weapon against the Federation.

In possession of a weapon capable of terrible destruction, Picard's replica has the power to destroy the Enterprise and her crew, and even to annihilate the Earth.

It turns out that this intriguing story was thought up by old Star Trek hand **Rick Berman**, who was tapped by the franchise's creator, **Gene Roddenberry**, in 1986 to be a writer and a co-executive producer for "Star Trek: The Next Generation."

He later became executive producer of the popular series, which won 16 Emmys in its seven seasons. Bernan also produced the three "Next Generation" feature films, "Generations," "First Contact" and "Insurrection."

Even better, Berman's story was expanded into a screenplay by **John Logan**, who wrote the script for the Oscar-winning period adventure-drama, "Gladiator." Logan's being a self-professed "Star Trek" fanatic helped him a lot in coming up with a screenplay completely attuned to the unique sci-fi sensibility that the "Star Trek" productions have been vivifying since 1966.

"Star Trek Nemesis" also stars **Jonathan Frakes** as Commander William Riker, **Brent Spiner** as the android Data, **Levar Burton** as Geordi La Forge, **Michael Dorn** as Worf, and **Marina Sirtis** as Deanna Troi.

### Movies on TV

ON THE HBO channel: Friday, Jan. 24 at 11 a.m., "Interview with the Vampire: The Vampire Chronicles." 4 p.m., "Chicken Run." Saturday, Jan. 25 at 6 a.m., "Town & Country." 2 p.m., "The Replacements." 4 p.m., "Baby." 1:55 a.m., "Tea With Mussolini."

Sunday, Jan. 26 at 1p.m., Philadelphia." 9:30 a.m., "Evolution." 12:45 a.m., "Snow Falling on Cedars."

On Cinemax: Friday, Jan. 24 at 8 a.m., "The Day the World Ended." 4 p.m., "Two of Us." 5:15 a.m., "Cinema Secrets: When in Rome."

Saturday, Jan. 25 at 6 a.m., "Stormy Weathers." 3:30 p.m., "Mercy Streets." 6:45 p.m., "Cinema Secrets: Super Models." 9 p.m., "Hamburger Hill." 10:45 p.m., "Blow." 4 a.m., "Cinema Secrets: High Strung."

### Boyz II Men Valentine show

BOYZ II Men, the R & B group popular for its powerful ballads ("End of the Road," "One Sweet Day," "On Bended Knee"), is topbilling a show on Feb. 14 at the Open Field at The Fort.

The group has won six Grammys, five American Music Awards, five Billboard Music Awards, three NAACP Image Awards and the RIAA Century Award (for the best-selling R & B group). Tickets at all SM Ticketnet outlets. Call 911-5555.

Meet & Greet
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SALBAKUTA
JENNY ROSENDAHL
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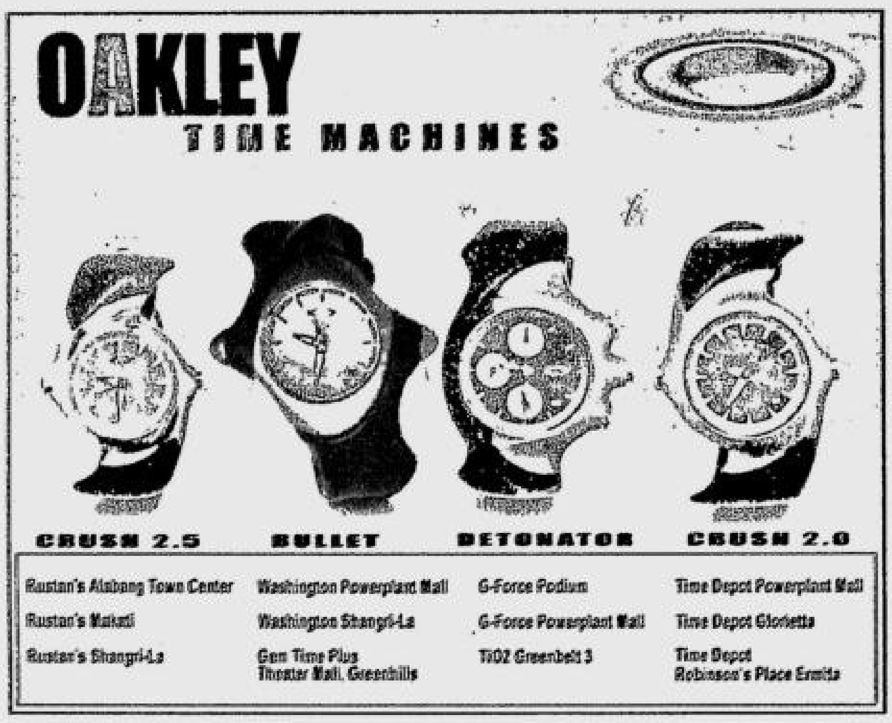
Jan 24 at the Cinema Lobby
SM CINEMA
Schedule subject to change without prior notice



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CRUSH 2.5 BULLET DETONATOR CRUSH 2.0
Rustan's Alabang Town Center
Rustan's Makati
Rustan's Shangri-La
Washington Powerplant Mall
Washington Shangri-La
Gem Time Plus Theater Mall, Greenhills
G-Force Podium
G-Force Powerplant Mall
TiO2 Greenbelt 3
Time Depot Powerplant Mall
Time Depot Glorietta
Time Depot Robinson's Place Ermita

# Billy Crawford wins over Eminem, Robbie Williams and Will Smith at Cannes music awards

## SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

*Leah Salterio*

FIL-AM singer Billy Crawford—the former TV child star in the Philippines known as Billy Joe Crawford—bagged the best international male singer honors at the annual NRJ Awards in Cannes, France last Saturday night (early Sunday morning in Manila).

The awards were given by the leading French FM Radio Network NRJ, the French TV channel TF1 and Midem.

Billy's triumph became more remarkable since he bested popular artists such as **Eminem, Robbie Williams** and **Will Smith**, who were the other nominees in the category. The award was voted for by the public in the nine European countries where NRJ-FM is aired and Billy reportedly won by a huge margin.

The news about Billy's victory at Cannes was also e-mailed to me by **Vic Valenciano**, artist and repertoire manager of BMG Records Pilipinas, Billy's local recording label.

An Internet report about the NRJ Awards ceremony said Billy wowed a star-studded audience with a stunning version of "You Didn't Expect That." There was a wild roar as Billy sauntered onstage on the three-wheeler motorbike, similar to what he used in the MTV of the song.

Latino artist **Shakira** emerged as the biggest winner of the night with three top awards. As best singer of the year, Shakira edged out **Jennifer Lopez** and **Mariah Carey**.

Shakira's "Laundry Service" was adjudged best album and the hit "Whenever, Wherever" best song of the year.

Shakira, however, was a no-show at the awards night.

Spanish trio Ketchup, who popularized the upbeat ditty, "The Ketchup Song," won best newcomer, while the American duo The Calling was best international group.

Two old masters—British pop singer **Phil Collins** and French rock musician **Johnny Hallyday**—were honored with special awards.

The NRJ Music Awards was one of the highlights of the international music fair Midem, which showcases more than 9,000 entries from nearly a hundred countries all over the world.

Other artists who attended the Cannes music awards were **Geri Halliwell, Kylie Minogue, Britney Spears** and **Dido**.

Billy, who is now based in Paris, has been making a dent in the European music market with his solo album, "Ride." The single, "Trackin'," has also landed on the charts in France, Germany, Switzerland, Belgium and Austria, where the album has been released.

Billy and his single gained enviable ranking in the European charts last year—Number 6 in Top 10 male artists, Number 6 in Top 10 Continental European Artists, Number 10 in "Border Breakers Top 100" with "Trackin'," Number 36 in Eurochart Hot 100 Singles with "Trackin'," Number 85 in European Radio Hot 100 with "Trackin'."

This year, Billy is all set to break the UK with the release of his new single, "You Didn't Expect That."

"Ride" is a pop/R and B classic, recorded exactly the way Billy wanted it to be. Although critics described the album as laden with Jacksonesque tracks, Billy insists he is not trying to sound like someone else in his album.

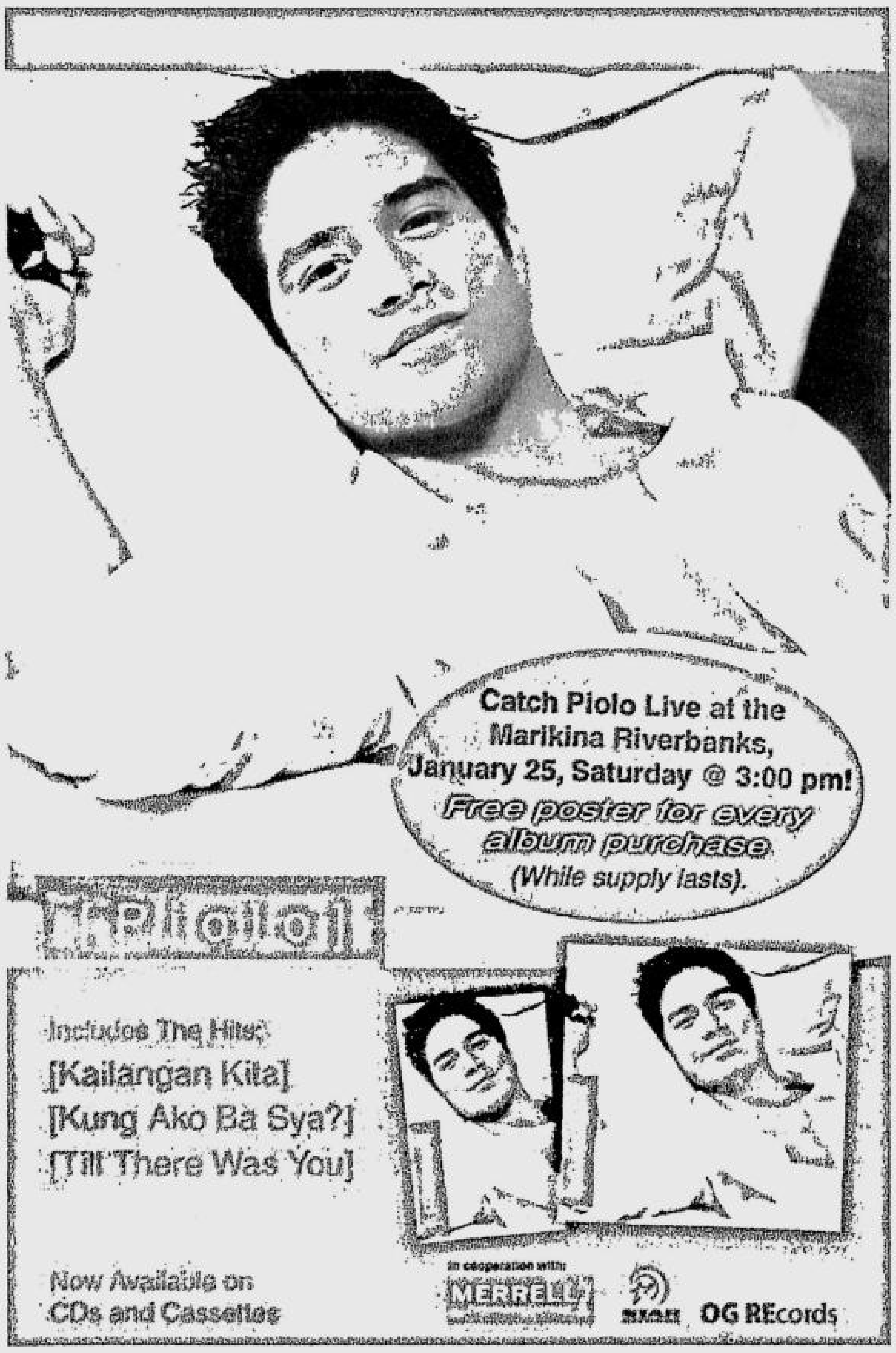
"I had to do 'Ride' with a soulful direction and a pop sound," said Billy in an earlier interview.

He names names **Al Green, Marvin Gaye** and **Stevie Wonder** as his R and B favorites.

Billy was supposed to spend the holidays in Manila,

BILLY/ A30

**VOTERS' CHOICE.** Billy Crawford is best international male singer.



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# ‘Open skies’ for Davao airport pushed

By Abigail L. Ho

**OFFICIALS of Davao City are urging President Macapagal-Arroyo to declare the soon-to-be-opened Davao International Airport as a site for "pocket open skies" to spur economic and tourism growth in the Mindanao.**

Through a resolution passed last month, the Davao Integrated Development Program—an organization composed of Davao governors, mayors and other government officials—pointed out that the new airport would effectively serve as a gateway and entry point of flights coming from all over the Asia-Pacific region.

"The Davao International Airport is envisioned to respond to the present and future air traffic demands not only for domestic flights but also for all other international flights, considering its strategic location and its being the hub of all trade, tourism and other economic activities in Mindanao," it said.

Also, the DIDP said the new airport would not be fully used unless foreign carriers were allowed to land there.

In line with this, the group also urged Ms Macapagal to let a representative from Davao to join in the Philippine air panel when it conducts air talks with other countries, "to ensure that there is a more rational, fair and proper distribution and apportionment of international flights among the Manila, Cebu and Davao international airports."

Davao City Councilman Peter Lavina earlier pointed out that the taxpayers' money that was used to fund the new airport would only go to waste if hardly any foreign airlines would land there.

"The (Department of Transportation and Communications) should seriously look into how it can pay the loans that funded the new airport if it cannot entice more planes to land here," he said.

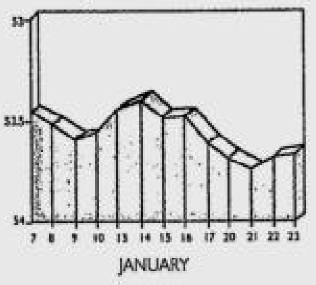
Former Davao City Mayor Benjamin de Guzman has just been designated as one of the DOTC's six undersecretaries that industry sources believed will pave the way for the recognition of Davao as an aviation hub.

As of now, De Guzman has not been formally assigned to oversee any specific sector in either transportation or communications, although he already reports for work at the department.

The DOTC has just had a realignment of duties by virtue of department order no. 2002-81 issued in mid-December last year.

## INDICATORS

### CURRENCIES



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¥ 118.22= $1

As of 5 p.m., Jan.23, 2003

GOLD: $361.00-361.50

per ounce Hong Kong, Jan. 23, 2003

### STOCK MARKET

## Stocks down on Iraq woes

STOCKS suffered their fourth straight session of declines yesterday as investors took the cue from offshore markets amid worries of a possible US-led war in Iraq, analysts said.

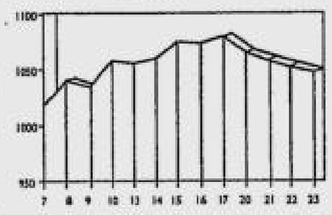
The United States and Britain are sending large forces to the Gulf area, threatening war if Iraq fails to yield weapons of mass destruction.

"Market sentiments remained weak given the prospects of war in Iraq and the lack of positive developments locally," said BPI Securities technical analyst Roberto Cano.

The Philippines' main stock index dropped 3.91 points or 0.37 percent to 1,048.53 points. With the lack of refreshing news, analysts saw the index testing the 1,040-support level in the next session with 1,000 as major support.

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX

JANUARY



(See stock market report on Page B2)

STOCKS/ B2

# Debt row between Digitel, Japan supplier worsens

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE $236.9-MILLION debt dispute between the Gokongweis' Digital Telecommunications Philippines Inc. and telephone equipment supplier NEC Corp. of Japan has erupted into a legal battle.

NEC, which earlier declared Digitel in default, has not only filed an arbitration request with the International Chamber of Commerce but also pleaded with the Makati regional trial court for the execution of a chattel mortgage to serve as security for the equipment it had delivered, according to disclosures submitted to the Philippine Stock Exchange.

In separate statements, the two companies also traded charges after NEC terminated the supply contract with Digitel over the latter's alleged failure to comply with payment obligations and to provide a chattel mortgage on all equipment delivered under the "NX2" telephone rollout project started in 1995.

"Notwithstanding that NEC had delivered approximately 99.95 percent of the telephone system under the supply contract, Digitel has failed to pay NEC the contract price in accordance with the installment payments agreed upon by the parties," Riaki Tanaka, general manager of NEC's international system systems division, said in a letter to the Securities and Exchange Commission dated Jan. 20.

In reply to NEC's letter, Digitel assistant corporate secretary William Pamintuan yesterday said the company could prove that NEC had failed to perform its contractual obligations under the supply contract and violated certain laws by failing to obtain à contractor's license as required by RA 4566.

"It is unfortunate that NEC, a foreign corporation doing businesses in the Philippines without the proper license as required by law, would use the SEC and the PSE as venue to argue a purely commercial dispute between a contractor and buyer, leading Digitel to suspect that NEC's sole

DEBT B3

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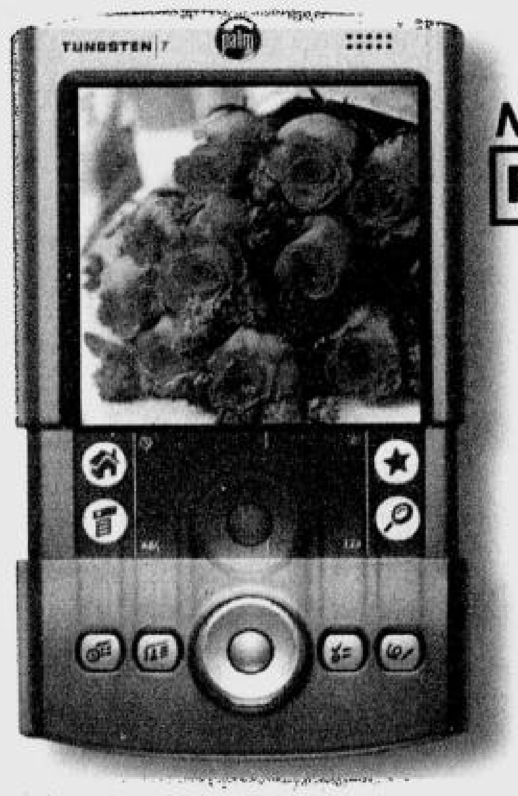

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- Benito Dellosa, *Laguna*
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# 3 banks offer to refinance gov't bond placement worth $125M

By Clarissa S. Batino

THREE foreign banks have offered to refinance the government's $125-million, one-year dollar bond placement with Citicorp Capital Phils. issued in December 2001.

Sources said Citibank, HSBC and Standard Chartered Bank had submitted their offers to the Department of Finance. The government covered the 2001 borrowing from Citicorp Capital with dollar-denominated treasury bills. Proceeds of the dollar bond issue in 2001 were used to prefund its foreign borrowing requirement for 2002.

The government said that for this year, it would raise $2.4 billion from the foreign financial markets to partly finance a projected budget deficit of P202 billion. It has so far raised $1 billion for deficit financing through the sale of two sets of 10-year global bonds, worth $500 million per issue, in November and early this month.

The government needs to raise $1.4 billion more to complete its offshore borrowing program for 2003. However, officials said that if external conditions would worsen in view of the US-Iraq tension, the remaining funds would have to be raised from the local market.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said that even if the government would increase its borrowings from domestic sources, local interest rates were expected to remain within the 8 to 9 percent target.

"Our projections already gave room for a slight uptick in local interest rates as a result of the shift in the borrowing mix. An additional P60 billion would not make a difference," said the finance chief.

The government has raised its programmed borrowings for this year to P198.55 billion, from the original target of P136.64 billion, due to an increase in its projected budget deficit target for the period to P202 billion from P142 billion.

# DTI to relax collateral requirements on SMEs

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE DEPARTMENT of Trade and Industry will relax the collateral requirement on microbusinesses and small and medium enterprises (SMEs) for the P20 billion and P30 billion worth of loans and guarantee that the government plans to provide to this sector.

Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel A. Roxas II said that under the proposed SME Unified Lending Program for National Growth or Sulong, borrowers would be granted loans even if they would not meet the minimum 20 percent collateral requirement imposed by banks.

Roxas said the Sulong program would accept other alternative business and personal collateral such as the assets to be acquired using the loan; the borrower's life insurance, and for franchisees, the corporate guarantee and assignment of lease rights.

Roxas is the government's point man in its renewed drive to open up financing to microenterprises and SMEs that have been shunned by the risk-averse banks that prefer to put their money in fixed-income securities.

A micro enterprise is defined as having assets of less than P1.5 million; a small enterprise has assets of less than P15 million; and a medium-sized enterprise has assets worth less than P60 million.

Aside from easing the collateral requirements, Roxas said government financial institutions have also agreed to standardize the accreditation of thrift and rural banks and of loan documents to speed up the processing of loans under Sulong. Roxas said this should help lower the costs of borrowing of microenterprises and SMEs.

The Sulong program will provide two types of loans—short-term credit payable in one year (which could be used for export packing credit or temporary working capital) and long-term loans payable up to five years (for the acquisition of new equipment or expansion of capacity).

Microenterprises and SMEs comprise 99 percent of all business establishments in the country. They employ 70 percent of the entire labor force and contribute 32 percent in added value to the economy.

**AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND BANKING GROUP LIMITED**
**3rd Flr. Tower One Ayala Triangle, Ayala Avenue, Makati City**

STATEMENT OF CONDITION
As of December 17, 2002

| ASSETS | Amount |
|---|---|
| Cash and Cash Items | P 5,804,640 57 |
| Due from Central Bank | 184,381,335 45 |
| Due from Other Banks | 1,350,832,010 52 |
| Trading Account Securities | 616,000,000 00 |
| Investments in Bonds and Other Debt Instruments (Net) | 2,729,130,677 05 |
| Loans, Discounts & Advances (Net) | 3,381,640,780 88 |
| Equity Investments (Net) | 2,579,850 00 |
| Due from Head Office/Branches/Agencies Abroad | 1,023,501,474 14 |
| Bank Premises, Furnitures, Fixtures & Equipments (Net) | 11,868,368 95 |
| Other Assets (Net) Others | 112,199,316 38 |
| *TOTAL ASSETS | P 10,018,035,463.64 |
| LIABILITIES | |
| Demand Deposits | P 234,890,450 71 |
| Savings Deposits | 1,005,054,840 54 |
| Time Deposits | 3,397,059,450 37 |
| Special/Other Deposits Due to Central Bank | 2,633,210 89 |
| Due to Head Office/Branches/Agencies Abroad | 3,855,962,336 95 |
| Outstanding Checks/Payment Orders | 2,582,164 48 |
| Bills Payable | |
| Interbank Borrowings | 37,930,413 15 |
| Others | |
| Unearned Income and Other Deferred Credits | 685,303 11 |
| Other Liabilities | 111,408,508 23 |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES | P 9,548,615,486.43 |
| CAPITAL ACCOUNTS | Amount |
| Assigned Capital | P 444,323,634 54 |
| Other Capital Accounts | P 25,096,342 57 |
| TOTAL CAPITAL ACCOUNTS | P 469,419,977.11 |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL ACCOUNTS | P 10,018,035,463.64 |
| CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS | |
| Unused Commercial Letters of Credit | P 665,812,822 46 |
| Spot/Future Exchange Bought | 3,578,371,531 70 |
| Spot/Future Exchange Sold | 3,524,821,336 82 |
| Other Contingent Accounts | 5,591,558,744 51 |
| TOTAL CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS | P 13,360,564,537.49 |

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CONDITION
HEAD OFFICE
As of 30 September 2002
in AUD Millions

| | |
|---|---|
| Capital | 5,314 |
| Surplus | 6,151 |
| Profits | 2,322 |
| Total Deposits | 113,297 |
| Total Resources | 183,105 |

LIST OF SENIOR OFFICERS:

| | |
|---|---|
| Mr. Johnny Co | General Manager and Country Head |
| Mr. Kim Chan | Chief Operating Officer |
| Mr. Nonilo Cruz | Senior Vice President - Business Banking |
| Ms. Regina Fajardo | Vice President - Treasury |
| Mrs. Bee Lian So | Vice President - International Services |
| Ms. Leah Espino | Assistant Vice President - Personal Banking |
| Mr. Arlino Magsakay | Assistant Vice President - Operations |

Other Information

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Deposits of | |
| | a Government | nil |
| | b Banks | 301,180 00 |
| | c Trust Department | nil |
| 2 | Compliance with Magna Carta Law | |
| | Prescribed Ratio — 6% Small Ent. — 2% Medium Ent. | |
| | Actual Compliance — 100% — 145% | |
| 3. | Amount of Non-Performing Loans | 149,123,381 00 |
| 4. | Ratio of Non-Performing loans to total loan portfolio | 3 59% |
| 5. | Amount of classified loans and other risk assets | 149,100,322 00 |
| 6. | General Provision for Loan Losses | 87,133,888 50 |
| 7. | Specific Provision for Loan Losses | 74,578,425 76 |
| 8. | Return on Equity (ROE) – Based on Assigned Capital | 20 07% |
| | Return on Equity (ROE) – Based on Shareholder's Equity | 20 68% |
| | Return on Equity (ROE) – Inclusive of Net Due to HO | 5 21% |
| 9. | Amount of DOSRI loans/advances | 4,486,484.74 |
| 10 | Ratio of DOSRI loans/adv to total loans/advances | 0.11% |
| 11 | Amount of Past Due DOSRI loans/advances | nil |
| 12 | Ratio of Past Due DOSRI loans/adv to total loan portfolio | nil |
| 13 | "Net Due to Head Office/Branches/Agencies Abroad" forms part of capital of Philippine Branch of foreign bank | 2,232,450,862.81 |

* Amended to conform with Circular No 208 dated August 17, 1999 and Memorandum to All Banks dated November 20, 1999

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )
MAKATI CITY ) S S.

WE, JOHNNY CO and KIM CHAN of the above-mentioned bank do solemnly swear that all matters set forth in the above statement of condition are true and correct to the best of our knowledge and belief

(Sgd.) JOHNNY CO
General Manager and Country Head

(Sgd.) KIM CHAN
Chief Operating Officer

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this 012103, affiants exhibiting to me their Community Tax Certificate No 11917495, issued at Makati City, on Feb 21, 2002 and Passport No. E7048749, issued at Jakarta Indonesia, on June 2, 1998

Notary Public (Sgd.) Benjamin B Mata, Until Dec 31, 2003, PTR No A-241008, Date Issued 02 January 2003
Doc No 314, Book No 64, Page No VII, Series of 2002

# SEC OKs appraiser accreditation rules

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission yesterday said it had finalized the guidelines governing the accreditation of appraisal companies.

Existing SEC rules provide that only institutional appraisers accredited by the SEC can be engaged by companies accepting property as consideration for the issuance of their stocks.

SEC Chair Lilia Bautista earlier said the commission would accredit appraisers to ensure better quality of appraisals as she noted some questionable property valuations in the past.

To qualify as an accredited appraiser, a company must register with the SEC and obtain a license from the Department of Trade and Industry and the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

The certifying officer of the appraisal company must be a professional appraiser duly licensed also by the DTI and a member of good standing of the Institute of Philippine Real Estate Appraisers.

The appraisal company or any of its directors, partners or officers must have no pending civil or criminal case involving its appraisal business.

Also, the company must be solvent and in sound financial condition such that current and solvency ratio should be 1:1 while debt-equity ratio must be 3:1 or better.

At the time of application, the company or its certifying appraiser must have a minimum experience of five years in the appraisal business. The company must have rendered professional services to at least one commercial bank and two public companies.

# DBP profit hits P1.87B

DEVELOPMENT Bank of the Philippines last year posted P1.87 billion in profit allowing the state-owned bank to declare dividends to the national government worth P1 billion.

DBP president Simon Paterno presented to President Macapagal-Arroyo and Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho the check for the P1 billion in dividend during the bank's anniversary celebration yesterday.

In his speech, Paterno said the bank's profit last year was higher than the previous year even after providing P2.5 billion in reserves for potential loan losses.

"The point is that DBP has fortified itself financially so that it could face the future confidently. After all, only a robust DBP can be a meaningful contributor to our country's developmental aspirations," Paterno said.

He also bared four priority programs of the bank that focus on logistics development, small and medium enterprises, housing and environmental protection.

In a press briefing after the anniversary ceremonies, Paterno said the bank would likely maintain this year the 2002 profit level.

"The external environment is unpredictable. The first quarter will be quite volatile because of international events," Paterno said.

Paterno said the bank was still in the process of forming its policy on how to deal with its non-performing loans and acquired assets given the enactment of the Special Purpose Vehicle Act.

The SPV law was designed to spur lending activities and economic growth by providing incentives to banks for them to dispose of their bad assets through asset management companies or special purpose vehicles. *Elena R. Torrijos*

For New Directors of Universal, Commercial, Savings/Thrift, Rural, Cooperative and Quasi-Banks

Corporate Governance & Risk Management Program

Contact: Development Finance Institute (DFI)
(Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Training Provider)

Date: January 30 & 31, 2003
Venue: DFI Training Center,
12th Flr. 1st e-Bank Tower
8737 Paseo de Roxas
Makati City

Time: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Telefax: 815-2888
Cellfon: (0917) 971-9168
email : dfi_1057@hotmail.com

# Pag-IBIG, DBP sign P6-B loan

THE HOME Development Mutual Fund plans to buy mortgage receivables from developers using a P6-billion loan from the Development Bank of the Philippines.

HDMF, otherwise known as Pag-IBIG, signed a memorandum of understanding with the Development Bank of the Philippines yesterday for the P6-B financing.

Under the MOU, DBP will refinance a P5-billion loan granted to Pag-IBIG in September 1997 which is maturing in the same month this year.

Moreover, DBP will provide Pag-IBIG an additional P1-billion loan to enable it to pursue housing programs.

Housing czar and concurrent Pag-IBIG chair Michael Defensor said the funds from DBP would go to the housing agency's existing facility to purchase mortgages of developers.

Defensor said the housing group was also expected to firm up P25 billion in financing for the other housing initiatives of the government. *Elena R. Torrijos*

## PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Thursday, January 23, 2003)

| STOCKS | OPEN | HIGH | LOW | CLOSE | VOLUME |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES | | | | | |
| BANKS | | | | | |
| Banco de Oro Univ. Bank | 17.5 | 17.5 | 17.25 | 17.25 | 52,500 |
| Bank of the Phil. Islands | 37 | 37.5 | 36.5 | 37 | 433,200 |
| China Banking Corp. | 635 | 635 | 635 | 635 | 3,700 |
| Citystate Savings Bank | 14.75 | 14.75 | 14.75 | 14.75 | 2,000 |
| Equitable PCI Bank Inc. | 26.5 | 26.5 | 26.5 | 26.5 | 21,000 |
| Metropolitan Bank & Trust | 30.5 | 31 | 30 | 30.5 | 167,500 |
| Union Bank of the Phil. | 17 | 17.25 | 17 | 17.25 | 2,800 |
| FINANCIAL SERVICES | | | | | |
| Filipino Fund Inc. | 0.31 | 0.31 | 0.31 | 0.31 | 10,000 |
| Manulife Financial Corp. | 1220 | 1220 | 1220 | 1220 | 1,270 |
| Sun Life Financial Serv. | 1005 | 1005 | 1005 | 1005 | 970 |
| COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL | | | | | |
| COMMUNICATION | | | | | |
| ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp. | 13.5 | 13.5 | 13.25 | 13.25 | 5,100 |
| Digital Telecom Phils Inc. | 0.41 | 0.42 | 0.41 | 0.42 | 2,190,000 |
| Globe Telecom Inc. | 495 | 495 | 492.5 | 492.5 | 10,950 |
| Island Info and Tech Inc. | 0.026 | 0.026 | 0.026 | 0.026 | 4,000,000 |
| Liberty Telecoms Holdings | 0.14 | 0.15 | 0.14 | 0.15 | 320,000 |
| Pilipino Tel. Corp. | 0.19 | 0.19 | 0.19 | 0.19 | 70,000 |
| Phil. Long Dis Tel Co. | 310 | 312.5 | 307.5 | 312.5 | 92,700 |
| Ivantage Corp. | 0.29 | 0.29 | 0.29 | 0.29 | 100,000 |
| Philweb Corp. | 0.01 | 0.011 | 0.01 | 0.011 | 5,400,000 |
| POWER & ENERGY | | | | | |
| Manila Electric Co. A | 8.8 | 8.8 | 8.6 | 8.6 | 216,000 |
| Manila Electric Co. B | 12.25 | 12.25 | 11.75 | 12.25 | 2,131,800 |
| Petron Corp. | 1.6 | 1.62 | 1.6 | 1.62 | 1,734,000 |
| Trans-Asia Oil and Energy | 0.94 | 0.94 | 0.94 | 0.94 | 530,000 |
| TRANSPORTATION SERVICES | | | | | |
| Asian Terminals Inc. | 1.6 | 1.61 | .561 | 0.6 | 715,000 |
| Int'l Container Term'l Sv | 2.4 | 2.4 | 2.4 | 2.4 | 124,000 |
| CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS | | | | | |
| Engineering Equip. Inc. | 0.22 | 0.22 | 0.22 | 0.22 | 110,000 |
| Union Cement Corp. | 0.43 | 0.43 | 0.42 | 0.42 | 220,000 |
| FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO | | | | | |
| Alaska Milk Corp. | 2.2 | 2.2 | 2.2 | 2.2 | 35,000 |
| Jollibee Foods Corp. | 17 | 17 | 16.75 | 16.75 | 433,100 |
| Liberty Flour Mills Inc. | 16 | 16 | 16 | 16 | 36,200 |
| La Tondeña Distillers Inc. | 34.5 | 34.5 | 34.5 | 34.5 | 32,200 |
| RFM Corp. | 0.69 | 0.7 | 0.69 | 0.7 | 130,000 |
| San Miguel Corp. A | 57.5 | 57.5 | 57 | 57.5 | 49,700 |
| San Miguel Corp. B | 63.5 | 64 | 63.5 | 64 | 256,000 |
| Universal Robina Corp. | 3.05 | 3.05 | 3.05 | 3.05 | 3,000 |
| Vitarich Corp. | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 100,000 |
| HOLDING FIRMS | | | | | |
| Ayala Corp. | 4.35 | 4.35 | 4.25 | 4.3 | 1,165,000 |
| Aboitiz Equity Ventures | 2.3 | 2.3 | 2.3 | 2.3 | 283,000 |
| A. Soriano Corp. | 0.58 | 0.58 | 0.53 | 0.53 | 220,000 |
| Alcorn Gold Res. Corp. | 0.005 | 0.005 | 0.005 | 0.005 | 4,000,000 |
| ATN Holdings Inc. | 2.2 | 2.2 | 2.2 | 2.2 | 5,000 |
| Benpres Holdings Corp. | 0.15 | 0.15 | 0.14 | 0.15 | 2,990,000 |
| Basic Consolidated Inc. | 0.08 | 0.08 | 0.08 | 0.08 | 100,000 |
| DMCI Holdings Inc. | 0.135 | 0.135 | 0.135 | 0.135 | 800,000 |
| First Phil Hldgs Corp. | 9.2 | 9.4 | 9.1 | 9.4 | 182,000 |
| Ionics Inc. | 0.71 | 0.71 | 0.7 | 0.71 | 1,270,000 |
| J.G. Summit Holdings Inc. | 1.32 | 1.32 | 1.32 | 1.32 | 150,000 |
| Macroasia Corp. | 0.45 | 0.45 | 0.45 | 0.45 | 200,000 |
| Megaworld Corp. | 0.59 | 0.59 | 0.59 | 0.59 | 30,000 |
| Metro Pacific Corp. | 0.16 | 0.16 | 0.155 | 0.155 | 1,200,000 |
| Philtread Holdings Corp. | 3.2 | 3.2 | 3.2 | 3.2 | 125,000 |
| East Asia Power Res. Corp. | 0.032 | 0.032 | 0.032 | 0.032 | 100,000 |
| Roxas Holdings Inc. | 0.92 | 0.92 | 0.92 | 0.92 | 70,000 |
| Uniwide Holdings Inc. | 0.036 | 0.036 | 0.036 | 0.036 | 100,000 |
| Waterfront Phils. Inc. | 0.27 | 0.27 | 0.27 | 0.27 | 100,000 |
| MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING | | | | | |
| Mabuhay Vinyl Corp. | 0.61 | 0.61 | 0.61 | 0.61 | 110,000 |
| HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES | | | | | |
| Belle Corp. | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 830,000 |
| Leisure & Resorts Corp. | 0.31 | 0.31 | 0.31 | 0.31 | 60,000 |
| Bonds, Preferred & Warrants | | | | | |
| ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr) | 13.75 | 13.75 | 13.75 | 13.75 | 1,000 |
| PLDT (10% Pref) Series P | 10.25 | 10.25 | 10.25 | 10.25 | 1,000 |
| PLDT (10% Pref) Series W | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 1,000 |
| PLDT (10% Pref) Series X | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 1,000 |
| PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 1,000 |
| PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 1,000 |
| PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 1,000 |
| PROPERTY | | | | | |
| Ayala Land Inc. | 5.1 | 5.1 | 5 | 5 | 5,228,000 |
| Empire East Land Inc. | 0.13 | 0.13 | 0.13 | 0.13 | 850,000 |
| Filinvest Land Inc | 0.94 | 0.94 | 0.94 | 0.94 | 1,330,000 |
| Kuok Phil. Properties | 0.025 | 0.025 | 0.025 | 0.025 | 500,000 |
| SM Prime Holdings Inc. | 5.1 | 5.3 | 5.1 | 5.1 | 3,231,000 |
| MINING | | | | | |
| Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A | 0.23 | 0.23 | 0.22 | 0.225 | 5,000,000 |
| Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B | 0.23 | 0.23 | 0.23 | 0.23 | 390,000 |
| Manila Mining Corp. A | 0.003 | 0.0032 | 0.003 | 0.0032 | 31,000,000 |
| Philex Mining Corp. A | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 250,000 |
| OIL | | | | | |
| Oriental Pet. & Min. A | 0.0022 | 0.0022 | 0.0022 | 0.0022 | 21,000,000 |
| Oriental Pet. & Min. B | 0.0024 | 0.0024 | 0.0024 | 0.0024 | 21,000,000 |
| Pacifica | 0.008 | 0.008 | 0.008 | 0.008 | 3,000,000 |
| Sinophil Corp. | 0.02 | 0.02 | 0.02 | 0.02 | 500,000 |

| | SHARES | VALUE(P) (P) |
|---|---|---|
| Bank & Fin Svc | 694,940 | 27,450,825.00 |
| Comm'l & Ind'l. | 33,179,550 | 106,950,950.00 |
| PRO | 11,139,000 | 44,368,600.00 |
| Mining | 36,640,000 | 1,384,200.00 |
| OIL | 45,500,000 | 130,600.00 |
| GRAND TOTALS : | 127,153,490 | 180,285,175.00 |

| | AVERAGES | |
|---|---|---|
| Bank & Fin Svc | 383.32 | DOWN 2.68 |
| Comm'l & Ind'l | 1,488.82 | DOWN 5.00 |
| PRO | 453.30 | DOWN 0.37 |
| Mining | 1,332.98 | DOWN 5.71 |
| OIL | 1.05 | UP 0.02 |
| All Shares Index | 642.82 | DOWN 5.50 |
| Composite | 1,048.53 | DOWN 3.91 |

NO. OF ADVANCES: 15; NO. OF DECLINES: 29; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 34; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 78; NO. OF TRADES: 1,130

# Stocks down . . .

From page B1

Value turnover increased to P179.71 million from Wednesday's P147.02 million.

Losers beat gainers 29 to 15 and there were 34 stocks unchanged.

"We took the cue from foreign markets. Investors continue to be depressed given uncertainties," said A&A Securities stocks analyst Astro del Castillo.

Analysts said the market ignored the news that last year's budget deficit was at P212.68 billion, much higher than the government's original target of P130 billion, since the data had already been factored in. *Reuters*

## CURRENCIES

Jan. 23, 2003

| Country | Unit | Euro Equivalent | Foreign currency in US$ | Foreign currency in Peso |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| United States | Dollar | 0.931706 | 1.000000 | 53.677000 |
| Japan | Yen | 0.007878 | 0.008455 | 0.453800 |
| United Kingdom | Pound | 1.508618 | 1.619200 | 86.913800 |
| Hong Kong | Dollar | 0.119466 | 0.128223 | 6.882600 |
| Switzerland | Franc | 0.683269 | 0.733353 | 39.364200 |
| Canada | Dollar | 0.608601 | 0.653211 | 35.062400 |
| Singapore | Dollar | 0.537564 | 0.576967 | 30.969900 |
| Australia | Dollar | 0.545975 | 0.585995 | 31.454500 |
| Bahrain | Dinar* | 2.471500 | 2.652661 | 142.386900 |
| Saudi Arabia | Rial | 0.248462 | 0.266674 | 14.314300 |
| Brunei | Dollar | 0.536018 | 0.575308 | 30.880800 |
| Indonesia | Rupiah | 0.000105 | 0.000113 | 0.006100 |
| Thailand | Baht | 0.021809 | 0.023408 | 1.256500 |
| UAE | Dirham | 0.253684 | 0.272279 | 14.615100 |
| Euro | Euro | 1.000000 | 1.073300 | 57.611500 |
| Argentina | Peso | 0.303487 | 0.325733 | 17.484400 |
| Brazil | Real | 0.266506 | 0.286041 | 15.353800 |
| Denmark | Kroner | 0.134319 | 0.144165 | 7.738300 |
| India | Rupee | 0.019479 | 0.020907 | 1.122200 |
| Malaysia | Ringgit | 0.245218 | 0.263193 | 14.127400 |
| Mexico | New Peso | 0.086181 | 0.092498 | 4.965000 |
| New Zealand | Dollar | 0.505455 | 0.542505 | 29.120000 |
| Norway | Kroner | 0.134926 | 0.144816 | 7.773300 |
| Pakistan | Rupee | 0.016078 | 0.017256 | 0.926300 |
| South Africa | Rand | 0.104029 | 0.111654 | 5.993300 |
| Korea | Won | 0.000792 | 0.000850 | 0.045600 |
| Sweden | Kroner | 0.107983 | 0.115898 | 6.221100 |
| Syria | Pound | 0.018091 | 0.019417 | 1.042200 |
| Taiwan | Nt Dollar | 0.027014 | 0.028994 | 1.556300 |
| Venezuela | Bolivar | 0.000485 | 0.000521 | 0.028000 |

## DISCLOSURES

**EQUITABLE PCI Bank Inc.** resigned as the stock transfer agent of Reynolds Philippines Corp. effective Feb. 28.

* * *

**PHILIPPINE Seven Corp.** announced the resignation of Augusto Jose Y. Arreza as corporate secretary effective Jan. 17.

* * *

**UNIVERSAL Robina Corp.** clarified that its proposed bond offering would be undertaken by a foreign subsidiary of the company.

* * *

**METROPOLITAN Bank & Trust Co.** approved its updated anti-money laundering operation manual. The company also announced the resignation of Jesus Estanislao as director.

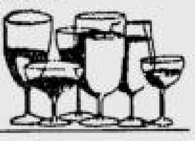
* * *

**ALCORN Gold Resources Corp.** said it had no knowledge of the cause of the unusual movement in the trading of its shares or the increase in its share price by 60 percent.

*Compiled by Ray Leyesa, PDI Research*

# Tagaytay bustle

## COCKTALES



*Victor C. Agustin*

IF the exclusive Tagaytay Highlands looks a bit crowded these pleasantly cool weekends, it would most likely be that Globe Platinum plan holders are also hitting the fairways and feasting the club's restaurants.

The Ayala-controlled cell phone company has quietly extended Platinum card holders, typically postpaid subscribers who average at least P4,000 a month in billings, de facto membership in the lakeside mountain retreat.

That means Gold Platinum members do not have to shell out about P800,000 for a club share to enjoy its amenities that so lured Erap and his cronies to make Highlands their weekend home.

Globe spokesperson Jones Campos would not say how many Globe Platinum members there are now and what exactly their perks are; apparently, even those facts are a closely guarded secret lest Smart be able to mine them.

The deluge of non-members has become an added source of irritation among some of the club regulars, specially those who paid for their shares in the millions during the go-go Ramos years.

The irritation is festering among the exclusive few who shelled out P25 million to P35 million for log cabins (like Brother Mike Velarde, ex-Trade Secretary Jose Pardo, radio tycoon Luis Vera, Megaworld's Andrew Tan, businessman Manuel Zamora, the Prietos of this paper) and who would now have medium-rise condominiums overlooking their bedrooms. *(That's another issue. See Cocktales, Nov. 18, 2002 for backgrounder.)*

But then again, considering the proven marketing formula of Highlands' new overlord, Tatang Henry Sy—pile 'em high, sell 'em low—exclusivity definitely has to take a back seat when it comes to bottom line considerations.

### Northwest's crowded skies

IF you are a Northwest Airlines frequent flyer member, you had better redeem the mileage before mid-year before the triple alliance with Delta and Continental airlines takes to the skies.

Northwest, Delta and Continental are determined to forge ahead with their marketing and code-sharing alliance sometime this summer despite the opposition from the US Transportation Department.

The triple alliance would allow frequent fliers of each airline to earn and redeem points on any of the three carriers.

That means Northwest's 19 million card-carrying frequent fliers will bloat by an additional 23 million from Continental and an additional 29 million from Delta.

Since Delta does not fly to the Philippines and Continental's Manila to United States route is a milk run via Guam and Honolulu, Delta's and Continental's frequent fliers would then be able to take advantage of Northwest's already crowded but more convenient Manila-Japan-US routing.

It also would mean Delta and Continental business/first class passengers would also be able to use the frequently crowded Northwest Worldperks lounges in Manila and Tokyo.

### Finex needs finesse

THE FINANCIAL Executives Institute of the Philippines, a strong advocate of corporate governance, may have to hold up a mirror to its face.

New Finex president Edgardo Limon chose his own set of officers, who were inducted into office last week.

Among Limon's choice is the vice president for internal affairs, Grace Tiongco, who is now on her third term despite a Finex stipulation limiting an officer to two consecutive years in the same position.

According to the grapevine, the Limon lapse has already prompted Finex founder and first president Arsenio Vistro to fire off a letter to the Finex board.

### Heard through the grapevine

UK's Imperial Tobacco, the world's fourth largest cigarette company, will conduct due diligence on the local Tabacalera operations next month.

Imperial's brands include Davidoff and West, the latter a recent German acquisition now showing strong growth among the local youth. *(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)*

# Consolidated deficit seen at P327.5B

**By Clarissa S. Batino**

THE GOVERNMENT'S consolidated deficit is expected to swell to P327.5 billion this year, up 14.3 percent or P41 billion from P286.5 billion in 2002, due to an increasing budget gap and declining profitability of state-owned corporations.

This year's estimated consolidated deficit would be equivalent to 7.6 percent of gross domestic product, up from 7.3 percent of GDP in 2002 even while the budget gap this year is scheduled to go down to 4.7 percent of GDP from 5.3 percent of GDP last year.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho presented the new numbers to senators the other night during a hearing with the Development Budget Coordination Committee.

Apart from the government deficit, the consolidated public sector deficit includes the financial position of 14 government-owned and controlled corporations, state-owned financial institutions including the two pension funds, local government units, plus the cost of restructuring the debts of the old Central Bank.

The debts of the Central Bank that were assumed and restructured by the government would contribute a deficit of P29.8 billion in 2003, up from P27.1 billion last year.

This year's CPSD, however, may trigger fear among investors and creditors as the deficit of the monitored corporations is seen to grow by P53.6 billion or by 81.2 percent to P119.6 billion from P66 billion in 2002.

Like the national government, the state-owned companies are expected to spend more than they would earn. Camacho said the higher deficit from the corporations was due to increased capital expenditures.

The bulk of the increase was largely due to the P95.62-billion deficit that National Power Corp. and its two spin-off companies were expected to sustain.

In 2002, the deficit of Napocor stood at P38.919 billion. This year, Napocor's deficit alone grew to P87.08 billion.

The National Food Authority also sustained a deficit of P13.072 billion, up from P9.989 billion while Philippine National Oil Co.'s deficit was seen to grow to P6.15 billion from P983 million.

Another P2.62-billion deficit this year would come from the National Irrigation Authority.

A surplus of P14.8 billion from financial institutions and local government units failed to offset the huge deficit from government corporations.

# Management guru coming to RP

GET better business even during tougher times.

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Participants are expected to hear and learn no less than the unconventional views Peters has been known for, as well as inspiring insights on the concerns of today's executives: Lessons on Leadership, Boss-free Implementation, Brand Power, Design Mindedness, Women and the Web. Peters will also give a report on the "three generations" of In Search of Excellence.

Salt and Light Ventures Inc. (896-1336) is the official organizer of Tom Peters Live In Manila, with DHL, The Philippine Daily Inquirer and BCD Pinpoint Direct Marketing Inc. as official sponsors.

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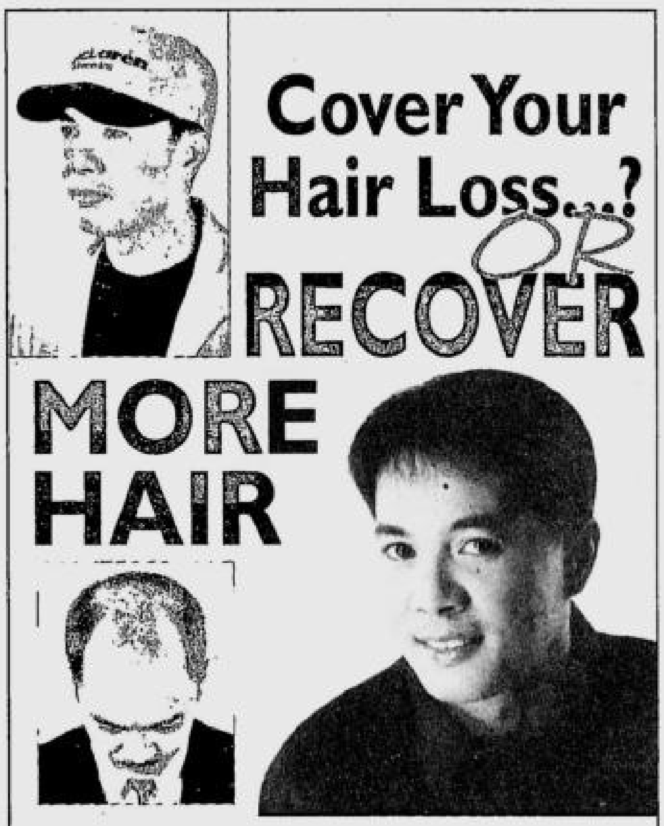
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# Debt row . . .

From page B1

objective is to discredit Digitel and damage Digitel's reputation in the local and international community," Pamintuan said.

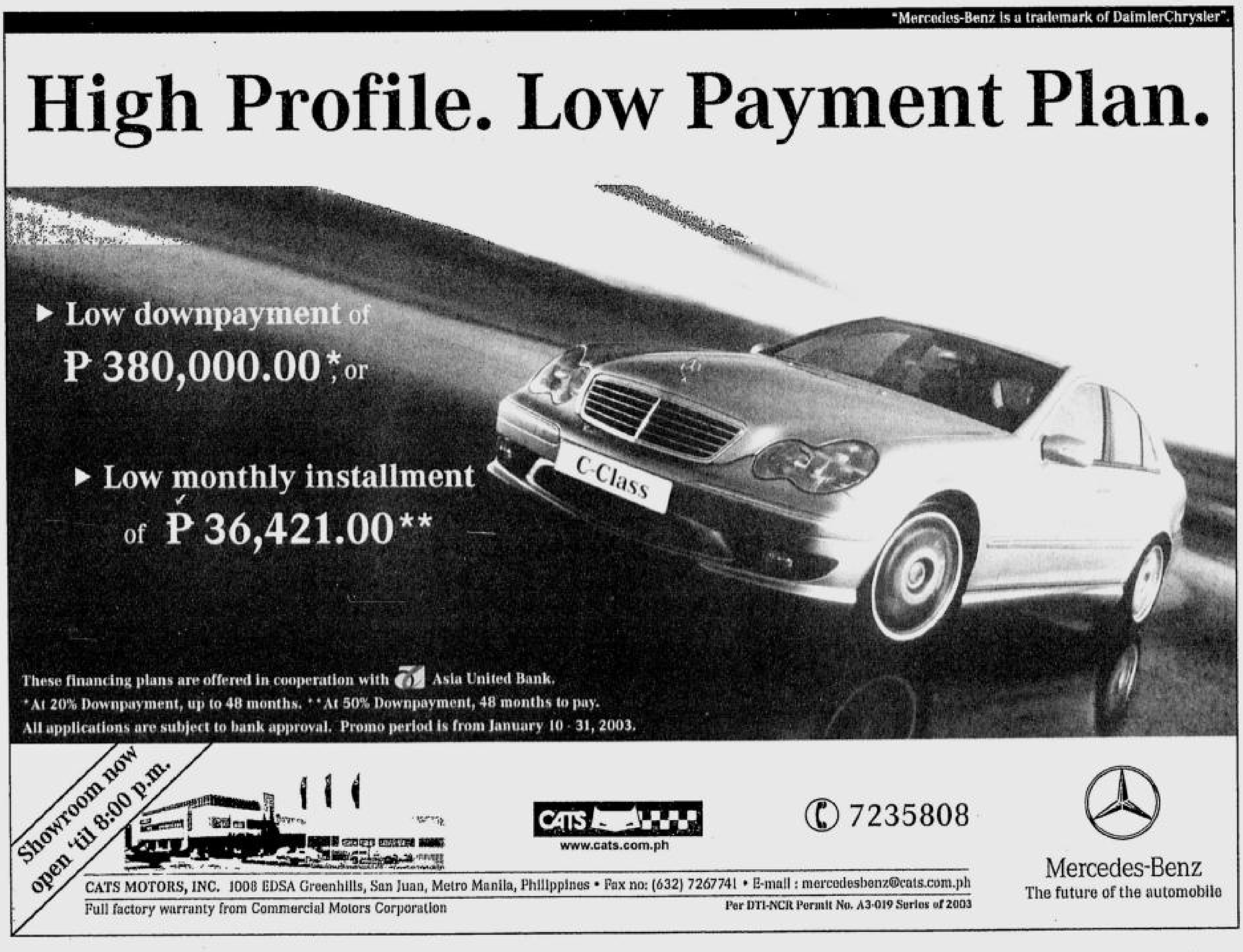
NEC was among the Japanese companies that earlier lobbied against the Gokongweis' takeover of a controlling stake in Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., whose second biggest stockholder is Japan's Nippon Telegraph and Telephone.

Tanaka, for his part, claimed that Digitel did not stop payment of debts due to any contract violation on the part of NEC.

"In all previous conversations with Digitel, cash flow difficulties were cited by Digitel as the reason for delayed payment. In NEC's view, the allegations now being pursued by Digitel is simply a pretext for further delays in fulfilling Digitel's payment obligations," Tanaka said.

To date, the Makati RTC has dismissed Digitel's application for a preliminary injunction restraining NEC's termination of the NX2 project. It also declared that any challenge to the legality of the termination of the supply contract should instead be raised before the ICC arbitration tribunal.

But although the RTC has dismissed Digitel's claims last Dec. 12, NEC has since then sought a partial reconsideration of the order, seeking permit for the case to remain pending for the purposes of determining its application for a chattel mortgage.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*Business Features Editor* **Margie Quimpo-Espino**

# Learning entrepreneurship after preschool

**By Myrna Rodriguez-Co**
*Contributor*

*"Entrepreneurial qualities exist in individuals in a variety of combinations and degrees. (Many of them) . . . are potential entrepreneurs who can be developed and stimulated to start their own business through appropriate interventions."* –Arnold F. Itao, Entrepreneurship Trainer

WHAT kind of education best prepares a person for an entrepreneurial career, some business-minded young people want to know.

Is it true, they further ask, that the best entrepreneurship education is necessity? And that the best entrepreneurs are those who have missed the "bus" of a conventional education?

## Vanishing Horatio Algers

Famous American author Horatio Alger, in his serial "Pluck and Luck" created the stereotype of poor, uneducated folk who make it big through honest, hard work, overcoming the obstacles posed by lack of education.

The Horatio Alger stereotype was truer of early entrepreneurs than of the crop of successful business people we have today. In fact, studies show that entrepreneurs tend to be rather well-educated.

## Well-educated

Average education of entrepreneurs is a few years of college, with almost half having a bachelor's degree, according to a study made by the U.P. Institute for Small-Scale Industries. A significant number are high school graduates.

Studies found that a degree in business administration, commerce, marketing, accounting or a related course is helpful, but not essential to success in business.

Clearly, education is a pre-requisite to business entry but is not all that important.

In other words, there are no educational requirements for starting a business, but it appears that persons starting businesses are those who have reasonably high education. Education is a pre-requisite because, after all, entrepreneurs have to know how to read, write, and compute and analyze numbers.

On the other hand, technical training appears to be closely linked with entrepreneurship.

A person who starts a business based on some vocational or trade skills he has acquired, such as carpentry, auto repair, computer hardware or software, sewing or cooking, has good chances of succeeding.

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## Enterprising training

Short-term training programs in entrepreneurship are something else.

These programs, called entrepreneurship development programs or EDP, are designed to simulate the so-called enterprise culture—a culture found by sociologists to lead to enterprising behavior.

A person is said to be raised in an enterprising culture when:

- He had related and interacted positively with many entrepreneurs and businessmen throughout his early, formative years. "Positive" interaction means that he grew up admiring and liking them.
- He had the opportunity to work as a child or adolescent in enterprises and enjoyed the experience.
- He had the opportunity to practice the various tasks of running a business, such as helping make the product, buying the materials needed to produce it, or selling it.
- He had the opportunity to exercise entrepreneurial competencies and behavior and gained approval for it from family, friends and other people who matter to him.
- He had the opportunity to get acquainted with customers, suppliers, distributors and other sources of support and assistance.

Ideally, the entrepreneurship culture is developed naturally in the formative years against the setting of family and community.

It is the culture with which many Chinese families bring up their children. This is why the Chinese have become the entrepreneurial class in many places where they have settled, including the Philippines.

However, not everyone who wants to be in business on his own has not been brought up under such conditions. When it is not, then training can set up conditions similar or resembling the culture through lectures, discussions, exercises and practical work.

EDP training tries to simulate the enterprise culture in a classroom environment.

According to Allan Gibbs, such a training environment must be one where:

1. Learners don't just listen and learn passively, but participate actively in deciding what they want to learn and how they will learn.
2. Teachers behave as fine examples or models of entrepreneurship to the learners, as students learn better from teachers who know what they are talking about.
3. Initiative is encouraged, decision making is quick and not bureaucratic, and learners feel few restrictions on their freedom.
4. Learners are allowed to face uncertainty, risk taking, long hours of work and other challenges associated with entrepreneurship.

*(Learn more about enterprising culture as simulated in the classroom at the "Start Your Own Business" Training Program which will be conducted by the U.P. Institute for Small-Scale Industries from Feb. 1 to March 15, Saturdays only. Call 928-7076-79 and 926-6316 or register online at www.up.edu.ph/~issi.)*

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# *Deep discounters drawing well-off set*

NEW YORK—Dollar stores that sell everything from waste baskets to wine for about a buck are increasingly appealing to the comfortably well off, in an example of just how much of a grip a bargain-basement mindset has gained on consumers of all income levels.

Suit-clad executives who once might have scoffed at going anywhere near a discount store are now driving their SUVs and BMWs to shops that sell not only the expected items such as nail polish remover and chewing gum, but also packaged shitake mushrooms, extra virgin olive oil and even a bottle of 1997 Cabernet from Washington State—each for 99 cents or less.

"When the economy took a turn for the worse, we saw a few Internet company executives that we've never seen before, and a few investment bankers," said Eric Schiffer, president of 99 Cents Only Stores, with 151 locations in California, Nevada and Arizona. "Once they come in, they always come back."

The new clientele has joined with the more traditionally cost-conscious shoppers to fuel double-digit sales and profit growth of all four publicly traded deep discount chains: Dollar Tree Stores Inc. , Dollar General Corp. , 99 Cents Only Stores and Family Dollar Stores Inc.

Fifty-nine percent of US shoppers visited a dollar store in 2001, up from 55 percent in 2000 and 47 percent in 1998, according to marketing research firm ACNielsen. In addition, 41 percent of households with incomes more than $70,000 shopped at dollar stores in 2001.

While drumming up repeat business from customers who have an annual income lower than $30,000, dollar chains are digging into America's toniest neighborhoods for big sales gains.

A 99 Cents Only store in Los Angeles County, California, just outside affluent Beverly Hills, last year racked up $9.9 million of sales—more than double the $4.8 million for its average stores, Schiffer said.

The company even advertised for space in the heart of Beverly Hills, home to luxury fashion labels such as Burberry, Escada and Gucci.

When resident retailers expressed alarm, Schiffer responded by saying: "When the tourists go to Rodeo Drive, they can go to our store to save all the money so they can afford to buy a plastic purse for $200."

Analysts said the discount stores thrive even in the current sluggish economy because 60 percent of their sales come from "staple" items.

"While people at the higher-end are inclined to do more bargain hunting than before, the lower-end customers have been more frugal anyway, and that's not likely to change," Erica Robb, a spokesperson at Dollar Tree Stores, said.

Although dollar goods may not look as fancy as their higher priced counterparts, sometimes a $1 can opener can work as well as an $8 one.

"I buy everything from 99 cent stores," said New York hospital worker Melissa Pollos, who was interviewed while shopping in a discount store in Astoria, in the borough of Queens. "Once I got a hairspray that felt like water, but just once."

Shopping in the same store was Maribel Arvelo, who works for a wedding service company. She bought wooden plate holders to make a wishing-well box for bridal shower parties, which she plans to sell for $15 each.

"As long as you are creative, you can use anything," Arvelo said.

For Madelyn Kane, recently retired from a $50,000 administrative job at a cosmetics company, discount stores are good places to look for things like picture frames.

"The economy is in bad shape and people want everyday things with good value," she said, as she examined a $3.99 Rolodex and picture frame combo in a close-out store in midtown Manhattan. "They have off-beat things that you might not find in a department store, I rarely walk out without buying something."

Some products sold at dollar stores may seem like a steal, but the stores get them much cheaper by buying mostly from companies going into liquidation or unloading excess inventory.

A dollar store's gross margins are about 40 percent, meaning it paid on average only 60 cents for goods it then sold at a dollar. The net margin, which is including all costs—such as labor and marketing in addition to the price they paid for the goods—is higher than an average retailer, said analysts.

Even the wine industry, when it has excess stocks, can deal with dollar stores. For example, the 1997 Staton Hills Cabernet red wine, which is sold on the Internet for $5 a bottle, was priced at just 99 cents at 99 Cents Only Stores in some locations.

"A lot of the times people won't buy the wine anyway and they bought it so that's plus business for them," Schiffer said.

He also said the company managed to negotiate better prices by paying their bills quickly—dollar chains receive mostly cash payments anyway. Also, since they don't have to carry every brand, they can focus on the best deals.

As a result, profits are soaring. Dollar Tree and Dollar General saw their net incomes climb, by 37 percent and 47 percent respectively, during the third-quarter of 2002. Profit growth at Family Dollar and 99 Cents Only were both in the teens during that period.

But those fat margins might shrink, because the chains are expanding rapidly. Dollar Tree, with 2,200 stores, plans to increase the amount of space devoted to sales by 22 percent in 2003, and 99 Cents Only plans to increase the amount of space it has by 25 percent.

Such growth would hurt sales at stores open at least a year, though analysts said that in the current environment, same-store sales might still grow at 3 percent a year.

No glut is in sight yet. "It will be at least a decade and possibly two decades before they reach saturation, because there is still a need to put a dollar store in every community in the US," said Daniel Barry, an analyst at Merrill Lynch & Co. *Reuters*

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# American wants 50,000 units of Fantastic Kalan

SAN JOSE, Batangas—After the INQUIRER Sundaybiz story on the Fantastic Kalan and its inventor came out, the little business was deluged with inquiries.

The potentially biggest order came from the United States.

In an e-mail message to Fantastic Kalan inventor Thomas Anceno, an American businesswoman said she planned to get at least 50,000 units of the stove, which she planned to resell to big stores in the US for the summer season.

The American offer was the biggest Anceno has received since the INQUIRER story came out on Jan. 5. Another big order came from a group of restaurants, which wanted 800 units of the *kalan*.

Wallander's e-mail came on the afternoon of Jan. 10, just as Anceno finished his demonstration at the office of a local burger chain in Lucena City where the Filipino-Chinese owner ordered 800 units of Fantastic Kalan.

"Oh my God!" was Anceno's first reaction as he pinched his arm, "Is this really happening?"

The big volume of the American businesswoman's order could mean substantial sales if successfully sold in the US.

Fantastic Kalan sells for between P1,000 and P2,900, depending on the quality of the stainless steel used in making the body of the stove.

"But we are just talking of the US," Anceno said, "Orders from Canada, Europe, Australia and Asia could still come."

Anceno said he still has to patent the design of his stove in the US to keep copycats at bay. He invented the stove only in August last year.

Fantastic Kalan is the only charcoal stove with a fan and combines the fast-cooking advantages of a liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) stove and the economical benefits of a peso-saving charcoal stove.

It can use wood chips, fresh coconut shells, charcoal, or any hard combustible materials for fuel and can cook fast.

Using the stove, a cup of charcoal can cook a kilo or more of rice as the heat it can generate reaches up to as high as 500 degrees Celsius.

**BASED** on the furnace principle, veterinarian Thomas Anseno was able to invent a stove that saves on charcoal, cooks fast, and can even use fresh wood.

Anceno invented the stove by accident when his attempt to manufacture activated carbon used in filtering tap water failed.

He was about to burn all the charcoal materials for the failed invention when the simple principle of furnace fire used by blacksmiths in making knives and garden tools gave him the idea to create the stove.

## Seeking gov't help

He said he also plans to seek the help of the local government and the Department of Trade and Industry to start the mass production of the Fantastic Kalan that he used to produce on a per order basis.

"I could also tap the local labor force of San Jose to manufacture the stove," Anceno said, "This project can help a lot of out-of-school youths and jobless college graduates."

Anceno said he may tap graduates of the Technical Education Skills and Development Administration in the mass production of the Fantastic Kalan.

## Inquiries from all over

A day after the story came out of the veterinarian who invented a peso-saving stove, Anceno started getting calls from people who read it.

"Clients who were interested to buy Fantastic Kalan even went to Bahay Bibingka to ask where they can find me in Barangay Pinagtung-Ulan," Anceno said.

Bahay Bibingka is located in Lipa City and is about eight kilometers away from Pinagtung-Ulan.

Anceno lives in Barangay Pinagtung-Ulan, this town, where his Fantastic Kalan shop is located in the backyard of their home.

People from all over Batangas province who had read the story also called this correspondent to know Anceno's contact number and address.

They all bought the stove.

The INQUIRER main office in Makati city, and its website INQ7 were deluged with queries.

Anceno has been getting calls from Davao and Cebu.

"I don't know how to thank the INQUIRER for what the newspaper has done to my invention," Anceno said, "I never thought Fantastic Kalan could get such wide popularity. I think it's time to have my own brochure."

## Cost-saving choice to LPG

The Fantastic Kalan story came in time when the price of the LPG went up and people have been starting to look for a better and cost-saving alternative to the LPG stove.

"I'm planning to demonstrate what my stove can do to Energy Secretary Vince Perez," Anceno said. "That way, we can help the Filipinos save more pesos on LPG consumption and somehow help the economy," he added.

Anceno said he also plans to go all the way to Malacañang and ask for the President's assistance.

"I think the government should support Fantastic Kalan as this is a product of Filipino ingenuity and can help us lessen our dependence on petroleum," he said. *Mei Magsino, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

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# Livelihood training for OFWs in Taiwan started

THE MANILA Economic and Cultural Office (Meco) has introduced livelihood training courses to prepare overseas Filipino workers in Taiwan for their eventual return to the Philippines.

Ma. Isabel O. Golamco, Meco director, said the Services to Nationals Section of Meco's office in Taiwan headed by lawyer Ed Tangco, has started presenting a series of Sunday Livelihood Training courses using video instruction material from the Technology and Livelihood Resource Center for the OFWs.

"In our continuous interaction with our countrymen, they have always expressed their desire to finally return to the Philippines after their contracts finish in Taiwan," she said. "They also would like to invest their savings in starting their own business so this is our way of helping them."

The courses are aimed at establishing low capital businesses tailored to meet the interests and capabilities of homebound OFWs. The courses, taught in Pilipino, are given on Sunday afternoons and different topics are taken up each session.

Upon the conclusion of the course, the attendees are awarded Certificates of Participation for the particular courses taken.

The courses that have been undertaken so far have been "Pangangasiwa ng Maliit na Negosyo," "Pangangalaga ng Baboy," "Pagpapataba ng Baka," "Paitluging Manok" or raising egg-laying chicken and "Paggagawa ng Longganisa."

This year, the following courses will also be offered—catering and food service, high value vegetables, cutflower growing, duck raising, raising native chickens, tilapia growing and orchid growing. Meco is expected to resume its courses in the second week of February, after the Chinese New Year break.

# US bankers see stronger economy

WASHINGTON—Stronger corporate profits should help boost a slow-growing US economy enough this year that the Federal Reserve will be pushing interest rates up by summer, a top bankers' group predicted on Wednesday.

A panel of 11 senior economists who make up the American Bankers Association's Economic Advisory Committee foresaw gradually building momentum and "healthy growth" by mid-year.

The ABA estimated real US economic growth of 3.1 percent this year, on a fourth-quarter over fourth-quarter basis, versus 2.8 percent in 2002 and just 0.5 percent in 2001.

"We think there'll be a better balance, with consumers and to some extent the federal government having been the mainstays in 2002," said Stuart Hoffman, chairman of the ABA's advisory committee and chief economist for Pittsburgh-based PNC Financial Services.

"We see the recovery broadening out a bit with business investment and housing adding to what we still think will be a consumer who will be spending but perhaps a bit more moderately," he told a news conference.

The ABA said the outcome of a possible war with Iraq, and other global issues, such as the current disruption of oil supplies caused by a worker strike in Venezuela, were the greatest threats to a slow but steadily increasing pick-up in the economy's tempo.

The bankers said inflation will remain "tame," with consumer prices rising at the same 2.4 percent pace as during 2002, and foresaw "minimal, minimal risk" of deflation—a punishing round of extended and widespread price declines.

"Building (economic) momentum in the economy will prompt the Federal Reserve to raise short-term interest rates late this summer," the bankers predicted. Currently, the Fed's trend setting federal funds rate stands at a four-decade low 1.25 percent.

The US central bank's Federal Open Market Committee meets next Tuesday and Wednesday to mull interest-rate strategy amid widespread expectation it will keep rates steady. *Reuters*

# Asia-Pacific to outpace world economy in five years—EIU

SINGAPORE—The Asia-Pacific region will outpace the rest of the world economy in the next five years with an annual average growth rate of 5.5 percent, the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) said Thursday.

China and India—the region's most populous nations—will be among the best performers, the EIU said.

However, the pace of regional growth will be slower compared with the boom years preceding the 1997-1998 regional financial crisis, it said.

In Southeast Asia, Vietnam is likely to be the star performer with growth of nearly 7.0 percent.

In the wider Asian region, the economic expansion is seen higher than in other emerging regions, largely owing to the performances of China and India.

GDP growth in China will average just under eight percent, similar to the rates in the previous five years.

"Export volumes seem to be expanding rapidly despite the sluggishness of the global economy. Domestic demand growth is being driven primarily by government investment," the EIU said.

Hong Kong's fortunes will remain tied to the international trade cycle, with GDP growth this year seen at a "disappointing" 2.5 percent.

"Over the long term, however, Hong Kong will benefit from China's accession to the WTO (World Trade Organization), which will help the expansion of its export markets," it said.

India's growth is forecast at 5.5 percent this year, due to the effects of the poor monsoon rains on the agricultural sector.

Medium-term growth is seen between six and seven percent, which is rapid by global standards but below the eight and nine percent growth seen as necessary to reduce poverty levels.

South Korea, one of the countries hardest hit by the 1997-1998 crisis, is expected to expand at an average rate of 4.5 percent in the next five years, with growth seen strongest at 5.4 percent this year. *AFP*

# Gold, euro surge due to Iraq war fears

SINGAPORE—Safe-haven gold surged and the dollar and yen floundered at three-year lows versus the euro on Thursday as investors hunkered down to watch developments over Iraq, but chip stocks rose on a brighter outlook for the sector.

After a fifth straight fall on Wall Street had set Asian stocks up for a weaker start, shares firmed in Tokyo and Taipei when US and European computer-related companies posted encouraging outlooks after their domestic markets had closed.

Most other Asian bourses were flat.

Gold rose in Asian trading to its highest level in nearly six years, as speculators pushed the price up more than $2 to a peak of $362.75 an ounce, its highest since March 1997, in expectation of a war in Iraq.

Washington and London are sending large forces to the Gulf area, threatening war if Iraq fails to yield weapons of mass destruction the United States says it is sure Baghdad holds.

Against the dollar, the euro was at $1.0711, from $1.0732 in late New York trade. The dollar was steady at 118.72 yen against a late New York level of 118.24.

Japan reported its all-industries index fell for a third month in November. That may suggest a fourth-quarter contraction in gross domestic product, which could weaken the yen.

US Nasdaq futures were up 1.54 percent after brighter outlooks from wireless technology giant Qualcomm , Texas Instruments , the top maker of semiconductors for cell phones, and Europe's biggest chip maker, STMicroelectronics. *Reuters*

# Japan recovery uncertain—BOJ

TOKYO—The Bank of Japan kept its view of the economy unchanged on Thursday, but the latest batch of data told a more worrying story, suggesting that conditions are worsening as last year's recovery grinds to a halt.

The central bank, under pressure to take more drastic steps to revive the economy, said clear signs of a rebound were unlikely to be seen for some time, with output and exports set to remain flat.

"Japan's economy has stabilized as a whole but there is still substantial uncertainty about the prospects for recovery," it said in its monthly report for January.

The report comes a day after the central bank decided on Wednesday to leave its ultra-loose monetary policy unchanged in spite of loud calls from some politicians for it to adopt more radical policies to dig Japan out of a three-year deflation hole.

Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi is set to choose a new BOJ governor next month and has said he favors candidates with an aggressive anti-deflation stance, which some interpret as meaning a proponent of radical steps such as inflation targeting.

But in parliament on Thursday he refused to be drawn into the debate, saying the central bank and the government were already aware of the need to end deflation.

"If we were to really do it, however, I am certain there would be a chorus of criticism as well. That is why I have never used the term inflation-targeting," he added.

More evidence that the economy needs help came to light earlier on Thursday with the release of data showing a key measure of activity fell for a third straight month in November, suggesting that GDP may have shrunk in the last quarter of 2002. *Reuters*

# Battered US airlines fight for survival

WASHINGTON—Battered US airlines including world No. 1 American Airlines reported massive losses in a torrid 2002 and vowed to jettison costs in a battle to stay in the air.

Still reeling from the aftermath of the hijacked airliner attacks on the United States on Sept. 11, 2001, the top carriers took a pounding in the injured market.

Only the budget carrier Southwest Airlines made money, reporting the 30th consecutive year of profits, and even it took a hit as the industry endured its worst year in history.

AMR, the parent of American Airlines, lost $3.51 billion in 2002, compared to a loss of $1.76 billion a year before. Sales fell 8.8 percent to $17.30 billion.

"Clearly, results such as the ones we reported today are unsustainable," AMR chair and chief executive Don Carty said Wednesday, vowing to cut $4 billion in yearly expenses.

"While there are many factors that impacted our results during 2002, including a sluggish economy, high fuel prices, lingering concerns over terrorism and the possibility of a war in the Middle East, the core issue for our company remains a cost structure that is out of step with the revenue environment facing domestic airlines," he said.

Delta Air Lines, the third-largest US carrier, said last week it lost $1.27 billion in 2002 and it feared losing money again in 2003 as it too battled weak demand and competition from low-fare carriers. *AFP*

# Western Europe growth forecast set at 1.5%

LONDON—Western Europe will record economic growth of just 1.5 percent this year, less than expected just a month ago, the Economist Intelligence Unit said on Wednesday.

In its latest monthly global forecast, the EIU also cut its expectation for euro zone growth to 1.2 percent in 2003 from a previous 1.5 percent "as we have become increasingly pessimistic about the chances of a pick-up in some of the region's largest economies."

The London-based research group said it would be difficult for the European Central Bank or governments to take sufficiently aggressive action to offset domestic weakness and added it expected the ECB to make one further 50-basis point interest rate cut in the first half of this year.

Euro zone growth in 2004 would reach 2.1 percent.

The forecast for overall global growth is unchanged from the previous report at 3.2 percent this year and 3.9 percent in 2004.

The EIU said it expected the global economy to remain sluggish in the first half of this year but that conditions would gradually improve in the second half. "By late 2004 we expect most economies to have returned to a trend pace of economic growth," it said.

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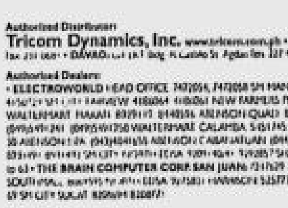

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# People, Events & Products

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Aries Espinosa, Editor

# Automatic Centre brings good fortune this new year

THE CHINESE New Year is one of the most festive annual events in the world. It is one of the most anticipated family celebrations, where parents and their children gather together to decorate their surroundings, give presents and supper together to welcome good tidings for the coming year. Fireworks and dragon dances are held to ward off evil spirits and bring good luck.

Interestingly, Filipinos, although being predominantly Christians, also observe this feast every year. What's more, they also believe that good fortune and prosperity will come to their families with the help of Chinese good luck charms placed inside their homes.

Now, Automatic Centre wishes you good fortune this Chinese New Year 2003—the Year of the Sheep. Bring home good luck charms in its Lucky New Year promo. For a minimum purchase of P1,000 in a single receipt at any Automatic Centre or Sogo Branch from today, Jan. 24 until Feb. 16, you get to pick an ang pao (lucky red envelope) containing a good luck charm or a gift certificate worth up to P500. Prizes are given away according to the amount purchased.

### Home Theater Holiday grand raffle draw today

AFTER numerous daily winners who won fabulous appliance prizes last Yuletide season, Automatic Centre, Sogo and Blims Fine Furniture now give you the chance to own one of three home entertainment showcases in the Home Theater Holiday grand raffle draw.

Non-winning entries in the Daily Giveaway raffle are qualified to join the grand draw today, Jan. 24, in which 3 lucky customers will each win one of the brand new home theater systems from JVC, LG ands Philips plus matching furniture from Blims.

You too can have the chance to have the happiest New Year ever. Be there at the grand draw of the Home Theater Holiday Raffle Promo because you just might be one of those who will win your own dream home entertainment system.

**EARTH+STYLE AND PAG-IBIG PARTNERSHIP**

Earth+Style Corporation, the lifestyle property developer, recently signed a Memorandum of Agreement with Pag-IBIG Fund, which will extend funding commitment lines to Earth+Style amounting to P200 million (with buyback arrangement) and P400 million (without buyback arrangement) under Pag-IBIG's institutional housing program. The agreement also covers housing loans to be taken out from Pag-IBIG Fund by qualified members who will purchase properties in the following Earth+Style housing projects in Cavite (Parkplace Village, Grand Parkplace Village, Pacific Parkplace Village and Villagio Ignatius) and Laguna (Jubilation New Biñan). Shown during the contract signing rites are (center) Pag-IBIG Fund president and CEO lawyer Romero Quimbo and Earth+Style corporation president and CEO Victor H. Manarang flanked by (from left) Pag-IBIG Fund SVP-operations Tessie Gonzales; Pag-IBIG Fund SVP-technical support Emma Linda Faria; undersecretary Armando de Castro, secretary general of Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council; Gregoria W.C. Lee, Earth+Style managing director; Adelaido de Guzman, president of Extraordinary Development Corporation (sister company of Earth+Style) and Jacinto C. Ng Jr. Earth+Style COO.

Bulong Pulungan

**SECRETARY GORDON AT MEDIA FORUM**

Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon was the guest at Tuesday's Bulong Pulungan forum at the Westin Philippine Plaza Hotel recently. He stressed that the World Tourism Organization (WTO) selected the country as the featured country for this year. We should be proud of the Philippines its still the best and safe destination to go, with them are (from left) Gilbert Perez, Frank Evaristo, Domini Torrevillas, DOT Sec. Gordon, Saeed Daof and Joanne Ramirez.

# New Philtranco cargo service promises faster, safer delivery at less cost

FASTER, more secure delivery of packages and cargo to and from any point along Philtranco's nationwide transport network from Pasay to Davao – at even lesser cost – is what the bus company's Biyaheng Pinoy Kargo, promises individual shippers, freight forwarders and cargo consolidators.

Philtranco president Alejandro R. Yague Jr. said that Philtranco Biyaheng Pinoy Kargo has the decided advantage of offering the fastest, most secure and most affordable rates for the delivery of these goods considering Philtranco's fleet of more than 300 buses plying their daily route along Southern Luzon, Eastern and Central Visayas and Mindanao.

"We are probably the only bus company that visits more than 1,000 cities, municipalities and barangays throughout the country as part of a day's work," Yague proudly says. "With such a wide and extensive a network, we believe we can handle cargo delivery the way we have handled passengers in the last 88 years – faster, more secure and with even more efficiency," he added.

Philtranco is the country's pioneering bus company. Founded in Iriga in 1914, it antedates by a few months the American transport icon, Greyhound Lines Inc. The transport company's entry into expanded cargo delivery, apart from maintaining its regular passenger and commuter service, is an acknowledgement that people will travel less and less as a result of advances in telecommunications and the rise in e-business transactions.

"We recognize that the new strides in communication technology will lessen the people's need to travel far distances regularly," Yague asserts. "People now can just text their orders to their Manila supplier and expect these goods to be delivered right at their doorstep. Whoever handles this delivery for them the faster and at less cost, gets that part of the business. Biyaheng Pinoy Kargo intends to fill that gap," Yague adds.

Philtranco's expanded cargo system is expected to benefit large manufacturers and freight forwarders who need to regularly ship their merchandise or goods to areas where Philtranco is considered the dominant player.

Philtranco's round the clock transport facility enables its buses to be anywhere in Camarines Sur in seven hours; the Bicol region in eight hours or less; Samar and Leyte from anywhere to 18 to 20 hours. At the rate of one bus dispatch every ten minutes, delivery via Biyaheng Pinoy Kargo is surely on its way in less than a day.

**TAAL VISTA SIGNS CONTRACT WITH BARCELÓ**

During the signing of the management contract between Barceló Hotels and Resorts and Taal Vista Hotel last Dec. 20 at SM Mall of Asia office. Signing the agreement (from left) are John Cogul, CEO of Barceló Hotels and Resorts; Hans Sy, senior vice president, operations of SM Prime Holdings; Elizabeth Sy, vice president, marketing – SM Prime Holdings. Standing (from left) are lawyer Sy; Ruby Cano, AVP-controller of SM Investments Corp; and Malou Gloria, purchasing manager of SM Prime Holdings. The Taal Vista Hotel will be the fourth property that Barceló Group will manage outside Metro Manila.

## *Freestyle goes wild with Vina*

TRIPLE One Productions, owned by Juris Chua and Lefie Cruz, brings today, Jan. 24, at the Casino Filipino Amphitheater in Paranaque, one of the country's most popular R and B bands Freestyle with Vina Morales as special guest. TOP has staged numerous concerts and special shows for artists like Jaya, Janno Gibbs, Allan K, The Sexbomb Dancers, Aegis, Rico J, Pilita Corrales, Glady's and the Boxers with K, Maui Taylor, Angela Velez, Maureen Larrazabal, Salbakutah, Andrew E, Randy Santiago and Ms Ai Ai delas Alas. This concert is done in cooperation with Buffalo Jeans, JMA Jewelry Center, Ad Works and China Airlines with over 40 international flights to Taipei, United States and Europe. For tickets, call TicketNet/SM ticket outlets at 913-8684 or CF-Paranaque at 854-1605.

**VOLUNTEERS AID FIRE VICTIMS**

Immediately after fire razed hundreds of homes in Cubao, ABS-CBN Foundation Volunteers's Sagip Kababayan extended relief assistance to fire victims temporarily evacuated to E. Rodriguez Sr. Elementary School. A total of 800 families were served with clothes and assorted goods. TV Patrol hosts Henry Omaga Diaz (in picture with volunteers and survivors) and Korina Sanchez arrived to extend their assistance. A big fire broke out in Ermin Garcia St., Quezon City, on Jan. 8, affecting hundreds of houses, mostly made up of light wooden materials. Last year, more than 18,000 families that survived various calamities were helped by ABS-CBN Foundation Volunteers's Sagip Kababayan Project.

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE
BUREAU OF CUSTOMS
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INVITATION TO BID

The Bureau of Customs is inviting interested suppliers to a public bidding for the supply of Digital Identification Card and Machines in accordance with the specifications as will be indicated in the Bid Documents.

| Activities | Date |
|---|---|
| Issuance of Bid Documents at the General Services Division Ground Floor, OCOM Building Gate 3, South Harbor, Manila *(Look for Engr. Danilo M. Ferry)* | January 24 & 27, 2003<br>9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. |
| Pre-bid Conference at the Multi-Purpose Room, 3rd Floor, CRIC Building Bureau of Customs, Gate 3, South Harbor, Manila | February 12, 2003<br>3:00 P.M. |
| Submission and Opening of Bid Documents | February 27, 2003 |

Only those who will attend the pre-bid conference shall be allowed to submit their bids.

The agency reserves the right to reject any and all bids, or declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract, if there is evidence of collusion between relevant public officers or employees of the agency or the BAC and any of the bidders, or among the bidders, or between bidders and third parties, including any act which restricts suppresses or nullifies competition, or if the BAC is found to have failed to follow the prescribed bidding procedures. The agency also reserves the right to waive any required formality in the bids received, provided that such waiver does not refer to a major deviation in a bid or any requirement provided in these IRR pertaining to the substance of a bid.

(Sgd.) EMMA M. ROSQUETA
Deputy Commissioner
Internal Administration Group
Chairperson, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI--Jan. 24, 2003)

## BITS Clips

### Mapua salutes alumnus

THE MAPUA Institute of Technology celebrates its 78th anniversary on Jan. 23 and 24. The school honors outstanding alumni, among them Dr. Leon O. Chua, professor of electrical engineering and computer science at the University of California at Berkeley. Chua is widely recognized as the father of chaos theory in electrical engineering. His creation, called Chua's circuit, is now considered standard material for textbooks on nonlinear dynamics. Chua received his BSEE degree from Mapua in 1959 with a Presidential Citation for attaining the highest grade ever achieved by a student in the history of the Institute. He taught in Mapua from 1959 to 1960 before flying to the United States in 1961 to obtain his master's degree from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Dr. Reynaldo B. Vea, Mapua president, says the Institute is "beyond being very proud" to have Chua as an alumnus.

### Big break at Timezone

WHEN everyone has greeted the new year with a bang, Timezone, the country's most popular family amusement center, welcomes 2003 with a break. That is, Cadbury's Break chocolate whose icon now graces the new Timezone Powercards. For only 15 tickets earned in the many Timezone games at the Glorietta 4 outlet, get a deliciously free 35-gram Cadbury Break. Apart from this, two other "breaks" await Timezone devotees. Today, Jan. 24, all Gold Card members get to play 10 free non-redemption games. The first 20 members to register at the counter will get free Glorietta 4 Cinema tickets for two. All members are invited to register their names, or drop their calling cards at the counters for a chance to win a gift certificate from Hotel Intercontinental Makati.

### Soprano Cabahug in Paco Park

AN ENCHANTING evening awaits the public in Paco Park Presents tonight at 6 p.m. in "Paco Park Presents". Soprano Marian Cabahug breathes life to various musical pieces ranging from classic, romantic, to operatic aria. Joining her is assisting artist professor Elvie Sibayan. Maribel Fernandez hosts. "Paco Park Presents" is a regular weekly cultural program of the National Parks Development Committee and the National Broadcasting Network. The show is aired nationwide over Channel 4 every Friday at 6 p.m. Cabahug is a 6th year college student at the University of Santo Tomas Conservatory of Music, majoring in Voice under the tutelage of Maestra Salvacion Oppus Yniguez. She is a member of the university's choral group Coro Tomasino. Admission to "Paco Park Presents" is free of charge.

### Merk's Bar Bistro lives it up

QUALITY musicians and solo performers have made Merk's Bar Bistro a haven for good music at Greenbelt 3, Ayala Center. Expect 2003, then, to usher in another year of exciting nights of pure musical delight. Here's the music stuff all week round. Silk and Steel sings all time hits on Mondays. Acoustic Jive provides the main attraction Tuesday nights (Jan. 21 and 28). Richard Merk and Friends perform Wednesdays for the Jazz Nights with Eileen Sison. On Jan. 29, "Verni Varga@Merk's: A Jazz and Groove Series" takes off. Thursday nights features the special "Up Close and Intimate With John Lesaca". Experience "Double Treat Show & Dance" with the Soul'd Out Band and ROB tonight, Jan. 24. Saturdays is hot and cold with Mai Castro and Onda Latina Band and their "Latin Wave," Call 757-4720 and 757-4721 for reservations.

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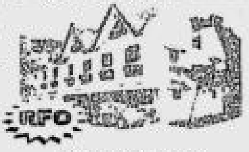

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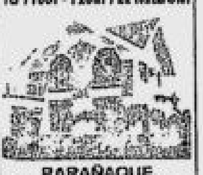

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3 bedrooms w/ restroom maid's room w/ toilet along Roxas Blvd. Contact Rickey Bahia 09189187473 8084253/ Dina 09173500369

**PASIG**

RIVERSIDE TOWNHOMES nr Ever Gotesco Pasig Liezel 4213705 / 86 ; 09170356891

**SAN JUAN**

G'HILLS STU P11T FF029-9836

## REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

### APARTMENT

**MANILA**

Apt 7841746/6682108

Studio Fully Furn Malate nr DLSU ST. SCHO, PGH, PWU 523-5465

**PASIG**

PBT SCREEND QUIET 2STRY 3 ADULT NO CHILD T-6354244 4 SN CLEMENTE KAPITOLYO 1BLK frm SHAW 1KM frm EDSA

**QUEZON CITY**

BNEW STUDIO TYPE APT 4 COUPLES SFDM QC 3730208

Cubao Lady's P3.5 9124428

### WANTED TO LEASE

INTERESTED TO LEASE MIN. AREA OF 1,500 m² fenced property w/or w/o warehouse send offers to M. Ramos Telefax 8730933

### BEDSPACE

M/F Pasay 5500254 Robert

### BUSINESS RENTAL

Rosd'l / Bus Bo. Kapitolyo 70m² 631-9771 • 634-1212

### LOAN & MORTGAGE

2% W/O TAKING CAR 3677523/24

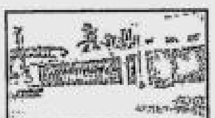
### LOT FOR LEASE

1000m² up along WS Rd SSHWAY, Cupang Muntinlupa garage for truck VCheap P26/sqm Pinky 6352762 • 0917 4287841

### WANTED TO BUY

INVESTMENT BANKING FIRM (London Investment) Needs Credit Card Processing Co., Banks, Real Estate, TV/Cable, Telephone Co info@iltonline.net 001-619-2969821

## REAL ESTATE FOR SALE OR RENT



COMMERCIAL LOT FOR SALE/LEASE
Alabang-Zapote Rd Almanza Las Piñas near SM South Mall
Contact GRETA - 801-4997/ 801-0037
Direct Buyers/Lessee Only
Area: 2,069 sqm.

## TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

### CARS

**HONDA**

'00 HONDA CIVIC VTEC FULL MAINTENANCE 09178151591 MR. PARK

**NISSAN**

'00 Sentra ExSaloon 9347318

**TOYOTA**

•HIACE TOWNACE 920-7433

**OTHER CAR BRANDS**

Pajero Prado Surf Safari Trooper Delica Hi-Ace etc. Streetmaster 2179 Taft Ave. near Cartimar 833-6644

### MOTORCYCLE

KYMCO M'CYCLE M2000 150CC P40T T5237603

## TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

### CARS FOR RENT

L3•Cars• 9273453 4536295

ABC CARS/VANS
NEW MODEL ALL BRANDS
SELFDRIVE OR WITH DRIVER
MANILA 536-0822 • 303-0789
TIMOG Q C 426-2278 • 426-4084

CAR VANS 410-0495

★Vans Coaster Bus 440-9171

HI-ACE L300 4561218 / 9290250

L300 T7411356

MARIAN CARS BRIDAL VANS CSTER 8957247/8969956

MB100 Starex9483535

## TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

### CARS FOR RENT

P800/L3 9136710/4333682

REVO w/driver 9272821

STAREX MB HIACE 8276605

TOYCO TRANS-UDRIVE OR W/ DRIVER CAR/VAN RENTALS 8005595

### CAR LOAN

1.5% Fast Car Loan 3677523/24

1.6 % EasyCarLoan 4000166 -67

1.5% FAST CAR LOAN 7262780

1.5% FAST CAR LOAN 6560140

2% w/o Taking Car 6870490/95

2% w/o Taking Car 8966633

2% w/o Taking Car 7220942/43

2% w/oTaking Car 3646928

2% w/oTaking Car 3732081-82

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

PAY-OFF BANK BAL. 712-7988

## GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

### GARAGE SALE

Ref. 2 double deck beds Call Tel. 4558472

### MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

YAMAHA GRAND & UPRIGHT
ELITE PIANO CENTER
Almost New:TERMS-7213124

### PETS

Dog Trainer 09192050952

DOG TRAINER 4528681

### WANTED TO BUY

ANY ROLEX
and Other Swiss Watches
Buy / Sell / Pawn / Repair
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BUYING ROLEX
Other WATCHES, BEST PRICE
CASH 0917-8142309 • 7269607• 7220433 • 4123543

DEFECT TV/COMPO 7325865

WE BUY AT HIGH PRICE
ROLEX
5646593 5897041
5633742 0917-0473744

WE BUY GOLD
HIGHEST PRICE
CALL: 8390004 8390060

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

### MALE

Flower Arranger, Agricultural Engr., Boat Driver, Autocad Operator •843-2596•

### FEMALE

BEAUTY CONSULTANT 527-1590

Domestic Helper, Personal Secretary, Nanny •843-2596•

Garment Mfg. Co.
is need of
•FASHION DESIGNER•
Female, Single newly graduate or with at least one year exp. Innovative, familiar with current trends, computer literate, Corel. Please Call: Ms. Melba Gutierrez at # 7150470 /169858 for appointment

★SECRETARY★
GRADUATE 4YR COMPUTER COURSE SINGLE 20-25 YRS. 817-5511 hdrglobal@edsamail.com.ph

PHARMACIST
urgent Board passer single 22-30yrs old bring resume call Salve 7274403 / 7269119

Receptionists 09190885167

SEWERS 7411912 ; 7422820

### MALE/FEMALE

CHRISTIAN MEDICAL CENTERS Needs DOCTOR, NURSES, Lic. CAREGIVERS, Send Resume to: hq@BNBTV.com or Fax : (619) 295-4532

FREE Care Giver Seminar 5614990 5638000

★OFC STAFF START ASAP!★ 18-45 w/ w/o exp 9613507 TRIX

HRDSTF 0920-5403508 Rosal

OFC PERS'L 09192535623 OLENDA

Republic of the Philippines
**CATANDUANES STATE COLLEGES**
Virac, Catanduanes

## CALL FOR APPLICANTS

A. **Position: SUC President II (SG 26)**

B. **Minimum Qualifications:**
1. Filipino Citizen
2. Holder of an earned doctoral degree
3. Preferably not more than 60 years old at the time of application
4. Must have at least five (5) years of relevant managerial and administrative experience
5. Must be morally upright and of good moral character and never been convicted by final judgment of any crime involving moral turpitude

C. **In addition, the applicants are required to make full disclosure of all administrative, criminal and civil cases through the following clearances:**
1. Ombudsman and Sandiganbayan
2. Civil Service Commission
3. National Bureau of Investigation
4. Statement under oath of any criminal/civil cases if there are any pending in court

D. **Interested applicants for the position are requested to send six (6) sets of formal application containing of:**
1. Detailed curriculum vitaé and certified supporting documents
2. The applicants proposed mission, vision and thrusts for the Colleges
3. Neuro-Psychiatric examination to be accomplished by any accredited government physician
4. Medical Certificate

Applications/nominations should be submitted on or before March 14, 2003 to Dr. Ma. Cristina D. Padolina c/o Ms. Jennilyn M. Salubayba, 5th Flr. DAP Bldg. San Miguel Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City, Tel. No. (02) 638-4870 or to Mr. Renato M. Panti, Board Secretary, Catanduanes State Colleges, Virac, Catanduanes, Tel. No. (052) 811-1295/811-1485.

Our Company is in need of

## CIGARETTE DISTRIBUTOR

A leading Import and Export Company is looking for Regional Distributors to Distribute its **Worldwide Branded Cigarette.**

Applicant-Firm must be able to meet the ff. requirements:
- Must have a good record in the business community.
- Must have a well-established network of dealers and wholesalers of basic consumer products in its area of operation.
- Must have the financial capability and facilities to support and sustain increasing sales volume as market expands.
- Initial investment will be required for Regional Distributors.
- Must submit a copy of Company's Profile and History, SEC or Business Name Registration and Bank References.

**Interested parties may call at Tel. Nos. 831-2322 / 550-5489**

## National Power Corporation

## INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY & TO BID AD NO. PD2003-01

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Opening Date | : | February 19, 2003 – 2:00 PM |
| Prebid | : | February 04, 2003 – 2:00 PM |
| E-Bidding | : | February 25, 2003 – 2:00 PM |

**Door-to-door delivery (inclusive of all expenses) including segregation, loading, hauling, unloading and proper stockpiling of various woodpoles and steel poles including Davit Arms from different pick-up points to Sablayan, Occidental Mindoro & Calapan Oriental Mindoro. P2,931,137.00**

Interested parties are invited to apply for eligibility and to submit sealed bids on the above to be opened publicly at the Sampaguita Rm. Ground Floor Bldg. 2 NPC-OBC, Quezon Avenue cor. Agham Road, Diliman, Quezon City.

Eligibility forms and bidding documents are available on **January 23, 2003** at the Accreditation, Bidding & IT Services, Materials Management Department upon payment of P50.00 per schedule which is non refundable and presentation of TIN/ supplier's number (DCE).

Issuance of eligibility forms and bidding documents **mornings only, 8:30 to 11:30 A.M.** For inquiries please call no. 921-25-74. Last day of issuance of bidding documents **February 17, 2003.**

The Corporation reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any defect therein and accept the offer most advantageous to the Corporation.

MATERIALS MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT
NPC-OBC (Head Office)
Diliman, Quezon City

(PDI – Jan. 24 & Feb. 1, 2003)

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

### MALE/FEMALE

Ofc Staff / HRD Start ASAP w/ Hi Salary 7270971 Mr. Bean

OFC STAFF 0920-6090675 L4 Shanly

Office Staff Can Start ASAP! •Ms. Maui (0917)8948071•

Wanted CHIEF COOK knows into cooking ATTRACTIVE WAITRESS College Level Call 9133618 Flory 9am-5pm

## PUBLIC NOTICES

### ANNOUNCEMENT

CAREGIVER TRNG 5276418

### LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE
Be it known that on December 9, 2002 the heirs of the late VICTORIA C. CRISOSTOMO who died on Aug. 30, 2002 have extrajudicially settled her estate per Doc. No. 206, Page No. 43, Book No. V, Series of 2002, of Notary Public of Las Pinas City, ARCEBIDO M. GERVACIO. (PDI - January 10, 17 and 24 2003)

## PUBLIC NOTICES

### PERSONAL

Prayer To Blessed Mother
(Never known to Fail)
O Most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, fruitful vine splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in this necessity. Oh star of the sea help me and show me, herein you are my Mother Oh Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech You from the bottom of My Heart to succor me in this necessity there are none that can withstand You power. Oh show me herein You are Mother.
Oh Mary, conceived without sin. Pray for us who have recoursed to thee (3x).
Sweet Mother, I place this cause in Your hands (3x)
Thank you for Your mercy toward me and being mine.
Thank you Mama Mary for answering my prayers. Amen.
(This prayer must be said for three days and after three days, your request will be granted and the prayer must be published.) - RONNIE

We are looking for an independent **Immigration Consultant** to work with USA attorney who specializes in Investment Visas (only). For particulars, e-mail to vancevest@cvv.us

## INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

### BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

B/SELL EDUC'L PLAN 8061574

B/SELL FULLY PD EDUC PLAN 780-0106 / 0917-7939632

EARN THRU PHONE 8965632

I MAKE P500,000.00/mo
Needs Women To Train 23-48yrs or w/Serious Exp. in Mktg Mngt Banking & Finance • Tel # 525-0734 •

INVEST IN AGRI-BUSINESS 09170473588 BABY / ALLAN

Kids Wear Consign 3738021

•TRAVEL N EARN FR. HOME• earn-and-travel.com 853-1008 • 0917-8901851

POEA 24-HR HOTLINE
722-1144 • 722-1155

# PRU LIFE SUPREME WARRIORS

## ANNUAL AWARDS 2003

### TOP PRODUCER AND AGENT OF THE YEAR

Gwendolyn G. Pardo
Cebu Blue Pearl

### SPECIAL AWARDS

#### *BRANCH MANAGER OF THE YEAR*

Henry C. Gocuan
Cebu Blue Pearl

#### *UNIT MANAGER OF THE YEAR*

Katherine L. Yap
Cebu Blue Pearl

#### *ROOKIE OF THE YEAR*

Monserrat Suria
Jasper

#### PRU LIFE U.K. BRANCH OF THE YEAR

**CEBU BLUE PEARL**

### TOP PRODUCERS

Stephanie Flores
Cebu Blue Pearl

HensonDave K. Tan
China Jade

Katherine L. Yap
Cebu Blue Pearl

Ma. Lourdes P. Yap
Cebu Blue Pearl

Cristina L. Go
China Jade

Pedro O. Lim
China Jade

Edwin C. Gocuan
Cebu Blue Pearl

Marilou Huang Peir Pyng
China Jade

Artemio C. Wapanio
Cebu Blue Pearl

### MILAN CONVENTION

#### *AGENT CATEGORY*

Stephanie Flores
Cebu Blue Pearl

Nellie Y. King
China Jade

Katherine L. Yap
Cebu Blue Pearl

Gwendolyn G. Pardo
Cebu Blue Pearl

Henson Dave K. Tan
China Jade

Artemio C. Wapanio
Cebu Blue Pearl

Mariden I. Fodevilla
Borromeo & Associates

Nelva B. Monterroyo
Smithsonite

Ma. Lourdes P. Yap
Cebu Blue Pearl

Cristina L. Go
China Jade

Edwin C. Gocuan
Cebu Blue Pearl

Jacqueline Grace T. Lao
Amethyst

Marichel M. Lim
Gold

Charina L. Lagda
Gold

Marites T. Modina
Cebu Blue Pearl

Ana Liza Valarao
Chrysolite

Marie Jocelyn G. Cang
Cebu Blue Pearl

Anthonette L. Mahinay
Cebu Blue Pearl

Ed Dante A. Latonio
Cebu Blue Pearl

Pedro O. Lim
China Jade

Caridad F. Manabat
Jasper

Connie M. Bayaborda
Jasper

Sheryl Tiu
Amethyst

Marilou Huang Peir Pyng
China Jade

Marilou D. Vargas
Carnelian

Ma. Aisa E. Villacorta
Diamond

Monserrat M. Suria
Jasper

Jovenia M. Delicana
Cebu Blue Pearl

Emilie Ong Go
China Jade

Gemma Lyn Sih
China Jade

Ma. Cristina M. Suarez
Cebu Blue Pearl

Irene Y. Go
Cebu Blue Pearl

Cornelio C. Pahang
Cebu Blue Pearl

Rita Lao
China Jade

Melhor O. Uy
China Jade

Tessie C. Go Que
China Jade

Leah D. Santiago
Diamond

Juanita C. Ong
Cebu Blue Pearl

Lorna L. Reyes
Diamond

Teodora Santiago
Citrine

#### *UM CATEGORY*

Katherine L. Yap
Cebu Blue Pearl

Edwin C. Gocuan
Cebu Blue Pearl

Jaime M. Barba
Cebu Blue Pearl

Henson Dave K. Tan
China Jade

Maria Fe L. Asprer
Cebu Blue Pearl

#### *BM CATEGORY*

Henry C. Gocuan
Cebu Blue Pearl

Hue Hun Koa
China Jade

George Buncayo
Jasper

25th Floor, Tower 1, The Enterprise Center, 6766 Ayala Avenue corner Paseo de Roxas and Dela Rosa

# SPECIAL AWARDS RUNNERS-UP

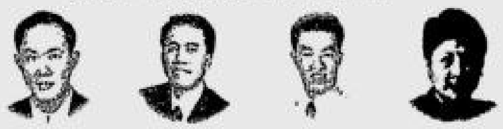
## BRANCH MANAGER LEVEL

| | |
|---|---|
| Hue Hun Koa | China Jade |
| George Buncayo | Jasper |

## AGENT OF THE YEAR

| | |
|---|---|
| Stephanie Flores | Cebu Blue Pearl |
| Ma. Lourdes P. Yap | Cebu Blue Pearl |

## UNIT MANAGER LEVEL



| | |
|---|---|
| Edwin C. Gocuan | Cebu Blue Pearl |
| Jaime Barba | Cebu Blue Pearl |
| Henson Dave K. Tan | China Jade |
| Ma. Fe Asprer | Cebu Blue Pearl |

## ROOKIE OF THE YEAR

| | |
|---|---|
| Marites Medina | Cebu Blue Pearl |
| Anna Liza Valarao | Chrysolite |

## TRIPLE A AWARDEES

| | |
|---|---|
| Henry C. Gocuan | Cebu Blue Pearl |
| Katherine L. Yap | Cebu Blue Pearl |
| Edwin C. Gocuan | Cebu Blue Pearl |

## MDRT CONTENDERS

| | |
|---|---|
| Gwendolyn G. Pardo | Cebu Blue Pearl |
| Stephanie Flores | Cebu Blue Pearl |
| Artemio C. Wapanio | Cebu Blue Pearl |
| Ma. Lourdes P. Yap | Cebu Blue Pearl |
| Henson Dave K. Tan | China Jade |

| | |
|---|---|
| Edwin C. Gocuan | Cebu Blue Pearl |
| Cristina L. Go | China Jade |
| Katherine L. Yap | Cebu Blue Pearl |
| Nellie Y. King | China Jade |

## PA TOP PRODUCERS

### BRANCH MANAGER

| | |
|---|---|
| Myrna L. Galban | Ruby |

### UNIT MANAGER

| | |
|---|---|
| Joselito Ros | Cebu Blue Pearl |

### AGENT

| | |
|---|---|
| Grace A. Garcia | Ruby |

# CASECOUNT LEADERS CLUB

## CENTENNIAL CLUB

| | |
|---|---|
| Grace A. Garcia | Ruby |
| Mariden I. Fondevilla | Borromeo & Associates |

## SILVER CLUB

| | |
|---|---|
| Teresita S. Bildan | Ruby |
| Belen Lourdes E. Aritao | Ruby |
| Corazon R. Del Rosario | Smithsonite |
| Lourdes L. Garcia | Ruby |
| Brenda B. Alarcon | Citrine |

## BRONZE CLUB

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Evangeline B. Cunglhan | Coloma & Associates | Gemma Lyn Sih | China Jade |
| Ruby Z. De Dios | Citrine | Betty T. Go | Red Onyx |
| Cristina L. Go | China Jade | Ma. Teresa C. Laguardia | Cebu Blue Pearl |
| Mariluz O. Pascasio | Clemente & Associates | Sherwin Alexander Jo Ramos | Borromeo & Associates |
| Marichel M. Lim | Gold | Gilbert K. Chua | Cebu Blue Pearl |
| Ma. Lourdes B. Villadiego | Coral | Wilma M. Lagunzad | Lagunzad & Associates |
| Teodora B. Santiago | Citrine | Monserrat M. Suria | Jasper |
| Connie M. Bayaborda | Jasper | Sylvia G. Segui | MM2 |
| Rodrigo Bernabe P. Ragaza | Cebu Blue Pearl | Susan M. Arrogante | Jasper |
| Gwendolyn G. Pardo | Cebu Blue Pearl | Steve Sia Sy | China Jade |
| Charina Lizette D. Lagda | Gold | Imelda V. Martelino | Ruby |
| Rosinni A. Llamado | Red Onyx | Rita Lao | China Jade |
| Bernard G. Dimayuga | Ruby | Ma. Cristina M. Suarez | Cebu Blue Pearl |
| Jeffrey T. Tan | Cebu Blue Pearl | Aurora R. Gesmundo | Diamond |
| Pedro O. Lim | China Jade | Joselito B. Ros | Cebu Blue Pearl |
| Leah S. Alvarado | Citrine | Marites T. Medina | Cebu Blue Pearl |
| Nancy M. Ampaguey | Garnet | Benigno Alden V. Valarao | Chrysolite |
| May R. Chkarat | Citrine | Ma. Melanie G. Briones | Diamond |
| Maria Cecilia T. Malaluan | Borromeo & Associates | Ferdinand R. Alfonso | Lapis Lazuli |
| Ma. Alsa E. Villacorta | Diamond | Ma. Cristina G. Dela Fuente | Moredo & Associates |
| Cristina U. Impreso | Ruby | Bella S. Santos | Citrine |
| Neiva B. Monterroyo | Smithsonite | Marissa O. Salazar | Pyrite |
| Jovenia M. Delicana | Cebu Blue Pearl | Lorna L. Reyes | Diamond |
| Henson Dave K. Tan | China Jade | Irene Yu Go | Cebu Blue Pearl |
| Susan D. Jasarino | Jasper | Violeta P. Alterado | Coloma & Associates |
| Teresita B. Balagot | Garnet | Sonia U. Albano | Diamond |
| Paul V. Borromeo | Borromeo & Associates | Corazon S. Penaredondo | Chrysoprase |
| Alpha Divina D. Castro | Coral | Malvin R. Morales | Peridot |
| Andrew S. Ante | Ruby | Peter Michael U. Delatore | Cebu Blue Pearl |
| Cornelio C. Pahang | Cebu Blue Pearl | Mari Agnes B. Dasig | Jasper |
| Caridad Juliana F. Mansbat | Jasper | Raul M. Coronado | Tektite |
| Lawrence Y. Yu | Borromeo & Associates | Ma. Teresa G. Cruz | Ruby |
| Ma. Lourdes P. Yap | Cebu Blue Pearl | Mark Allan E. Ching | Diamond |
| Anna Liza A. Valerao | Chrysolite | Marilou D. Vargas | Carnelian |
| Edith C. Nillo | Blue Sapphire | Sharon Joy S. Condeya | Alambay & Associates |
| Edwin C. Gocuan | Cebu Blue Pearl | Ma. Luisa B. Arambulo | Diamond |
| Debbie O. Borromeo | Cebu Blue Pearl | Flora E. Sapalaran | Aventurine |
| Herminia R. Febrero | Moonstone | Geraldine A. Santa Ana | Quartz |
| Arceli C. Tan | Tektite | Ma. Lourdes G. Lu | Ruby |
| Melchor O. Uy | China Jade | Rizalina B. Gonzales | Cebu Blue Pearl |
| Hermogenes A. Tomas Jr. | Alambay & Associates | Edna I. De Roxas | Jasper |
| Althea M. Maapoy | Nephrite | Dennis Anthony Y. De Guia | Diamond |
| Evangeline C. Enano | Coloma & Associates | Ludovino D. Cellona | Gold |
| Madora Jolibeth C. Avinante | MM2 | Dorothy T. Castro | Coral |
| Fredricka F. Calluang | Jasper | Rhoderick James R. Ang | Borromeo & Associates |
| Herminia M. Ruidera | Aventurine | Joel Ortega | Diamond |
| Arlene L. Anonuevo | Diamond | Mylene C. Ortega | Diamond |
| Maria Fides G. Yap | Cebu Blue Pearl | Anna Lilia P. Gutierrez | Jasper |
| Josephine P. De Leon | Buenvenida & Associates | Luis P. Go | Borromeo & Associates |
| Nellie Y. King | China Jade | Leonida Y. Botor | Blue Sapphire |
| Leah D. Santiago | Diamond | Romero A. Maing | Iolite |
| Maria Jocelyn G. Cang | Cebu Blue Pearl | Conchita T. Yu | Cebu-Blue Pearl |
| Elvira D. Angeles | Quartz | Cynthia Ethelyn C. Velasco | Goshenite |
| Violeta S. Ante | Ruby | Marilyn A. Maguslog | Ylocos Coloma |
| Ruby L. Cardona | Garnet | Mary Ann G. Latonio | Cebu Blue Pearl |
| Ma. Liza R. Ladores | Diamond | Lucila C. Aldovino | Citrine |
| Miriam M. Liwag | Cesconcruz | Efren R. Villarosa | Ruby |
| Aurora G. Andrada | Coloma & Associates | Flora T. Tayo | Aventurine |
| Stephanie Herminia Flores | Cebu-Blue Pearl | Sonia L. Tancinco | Cebu Blue Pearl |
| Noel A. Siacunco | Garnet | Ana Maria J. Reformado | Diamond |
| Katherine L. Yap | Cebu Blue Pearl | Charito Alf Mendoza | Mendoza & Associates |
| Macarias T. Ninalga | Coloma & Associates | Cheryl Lynn J. Martinez | Diamond |
| John-John C. Grio | Quartz | Lydia A. Mannag | Nephrite |
| Anthonette L. Mahinay | Cebu Blue Pearl | Jacqueline Grace T. Lao | Amethyst |
| Raquel C. Paelmagno | Coloma & Associates | Marilou Huang | China Jade |
| Leonides V. Pene | Garnet | Rafael T. Go | China Jade |
| Juanita C. Ong | Garnet | Danilo A. Abinales | Cebu Blue Pearl |
| Ed Dante A. Latonio | Cebu Blue Pearl | Leonida Escosia | Moredo & Associates |
| Erlinda R. Uy | Chrysoprase | Susie Solis | Quartz |
| Artemio C. Wapanio | Cebu Blue Pearl | Zolio Samballio | Ruby |
| Edwin O. Clemente | Clemente & Associates | Patrick David L. Lim | Borromeo & Associates |

# CIRCLE OF PRUDENCE

R. S.P.E.C.T.

Model employee who exemplifies Prudential's basic operating principles of R.E.S.P.E.C.T.

Nancelle Dumlao

# ACHIEVERS CLUB

## GRAND MASTER CLUB

| | |
|---|---|
| Nellie Y. King | China Jade |
| Henson Dave K. Tan | China Jade |

## MASTER CLUB

| | |
|---|---|
| Cristina L. Go | China Jade |
| Edwin C. Gocuan | Cebu Blue Pearl |
| Pedro O. Lim | China Jade |
| Anthonette L. Mahinay | Cebu Blue Pearl |
| Artemio C. Wapanio | Cebu Blue Pearl |
| Katherine L. Yap | Cebu Blue Pearl |
| Ma. Lourdes P. Yap | Cebu Blue Pearl |

## STAR CLUB

| | |
|---|---|
| Stephanie Flores | Cebu Blue Pearl |
| Gwendolyn G. Pardo | Cebu Blue Pearl |
| Nellie Y. King | China Jade |
| Ma. Lourdes P. Yap | Cebu Blue Pearl |
| Katherine L. Yap | Cebu Blue Pearl |
| Mariden I. Fondevilla | Borromeo & Associates |
| Cristina L. Go | China Jade |
| Neiva B. Monterroyo | Smithsonite |
| Artemio C. Wapanio | Cebu Blue Pearl |
| Edwin C. Gocuan | Cebu Blue Pearl |
| Henson Dave K. Tan | China Jade |

| | |
|---|---|
| Marichel M. Lim | Davao Gold |
| Marites T. Medina | Cebu Blue Pearl |
| Marilou Huang Poh Pyng | China Jade |
| Ed Dante A. Latonio | Cebu Blue Pearl |
| Charina Lizette D. Lagda | Gold |
| Pedro O. Lim | China Jade |
| Anthonette L. Mahinay | Cebu Blue Pearl |
| Monserrat Suria | Jasper |
| Jacqueline Grace T. Lao | Amethyst |
| Maria Jocelyn G. Cang | Cebu Blue Pearl |
| Anna Liza Valarao | Chrysolite |

## PRESIDENTS CIRCLE

| | |
|---|---|
| Dolly Jane D. Bok | Cebu Blue Pearl |
| Cornelio C. Pahang | Cebu Blue Pearl |
| Caridad F. Mansbat | Jasper |
| Sheryl Tiu | Amethyst |
| Debbie O. Borromeo | Cebu Blue Pearl |
| Irene Yu Go | Cebu Blue Pearl |
| Connie Bayaborda | Jasper |
| Ma. Cristina M. Suarez | Cebu Blue Pearl |
| Emilie Go | China Jade |
| Gilbert Khe Chua | Cebu Blue Pearl |
| Marilou D. Vargas | Carnelian |

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|---|---|
| Rita Lao | China Jade |
| Juanita C. Ong | Cebu Blue Pearl |
| Ma. Alsa E. Villacorta | Diamond |
| Jovenia M. Delicana | Cebu Blue Pearl |
| Tessie Cheng G. Que | China Jade |
| John T. Yap | Cebu Blue Pearl |
| Ma. Fides G. Yap | Cebu Blue Pearl |
| Teodora B. Santiago | Citrine |
| Nanette L. Yeo | China Jade |
| Paul V. Borromeo | Borromeo & Associates |
| Myrna L. Galban | Ruby |

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|---|---|
| Leah D. Santiago | Diamond |
| Gemma Lyn Sih | China Jade |
| Conchita C. Tan | Amethyst |
| Jeffrey T. Tan | Cebu Blue Pearl |
| Sonia L. Tancinco | Cebu Blue Pearl |
| Melchor O. Uy | China Jade |
| Leah S. Alvarado | Citrine |
| Arceli C. Tan | Tektite |
| Lorna L. Reyes | Diamond |
| Ma. Lourdes B. Villadiego | Coral |
| Julie L. Chua Gay | Amethyst |

| | |
|---|---|
| Conchita T. Yu | Cebu Blue Pearl |
| Ma. Melanie G. Briones | Diamond |
| Betty T. Go | Red Onyx |
| Merle Y. Dakay | Cebu Blue Pearl |
| Bernadette Tadi-Y | Cebu Blue Pearl |
| Sonia U. Albano | Diamond |
| Mary Ann G. Latonio | Cebu Blue Pearl |
| Madora Jolibeth Avinante | MM2 |
| Fredricka F. Calluang | Jasper |
| Noel A. Siacunco | Garnet |
| Lolita U. Tan Eng Sy | Cebu Blue Pearl |

| | |
|---|---|
| Cheryl Lynn J. Martinez | Diamond |
| Ludovino D. Cellona | Gold |
| John-John C. Grio | Quartz |
| Rod D. Sevilla | Borromeo & Associates |
| Lawrence Y. Yu | Borromeo & Associates |
| Leonida E. Escosia | Moredo & Associates |
| Teresita B. Balagot | Garnet |
| Maria Cherrie Tan | Cebu Blue Pearl |
| Leonides Pene | Garnet |
| Rosinni Llamado | Red Onyx |

## SENIOR ACHIEVER

| | |
|---|---|
| Benigno Alden V. Valarao | Chrysolite |
| Rafael C. Asprer Jr. | Cebu Blue Pearl |
| Peter Michael U. Delatore | Cebu Blue Pearl |
| Teresita D. Sudario | Lagunzad |
| Anna Lilia Gutierrez | Jasper |
| Cherie S. So | Amethyst |
| Maria Isabel O. Cokal | China Jade |
| Nancy M. Ampaguey | Garnet |
| Rosario C. Ong | Amethyst |
| Thelma C. Aguila | MM2 |
| Ma. Arlene B. Jumangit | Cebu Blue Pearl |

| | |
|---|---|
| Leonida Y. Botor | Blue Sapphire |
| Rodrigo Bernabe P. Ragaza | Cebu Blue Pearl |
| Raul C. Roldan | Gold |
| Josefa J. Tee | China Jade |
| Sharon Joy S. Condeya | Alambay & Associates |
| Ricardo A. Solar Jr. | Tektite |
| Rizalina B. Gonzales | Cebu Blue Pearl |
| Lilia A. Uy | Jasper |
| James Paul Bungubung | Peridot |
| Elvira D. Angeles | Quartz |
| Tomas Mayordigo Jr. | Jasper |

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|---|---|
| May R. Chkarat | Citrine |
| Emmanuel Dante Amilhe Jr. | Moonstone |
| Merle V. Sinadjan | Cebu Blue Pearl |
| Ryan Raymond D. Yu | Cebu Blue Pearl |
| Ricardo Orange | Chrysoprase |

## QUALIFYING MEMBER

| | |
|---|---|
| Evelyn A. Tayaban | Ruby |
| Luis P. Go | Borromeo & Associates |
| Mylene C. Ortega | Diamond |
| Amel A. Arriola | Diamond |
| Josephine P. De Leon | Buenvenida & Associates |
| Margel A. Almocera | Cebu Blue Pearl |
| Patrick David L. Lim | Borromeo & Associates |
| Gerard Patrick Hortillo | Red Onyx |
| Malvin R. Morales | Peridot |
| Gloria Tene | Diamond |
| Victoria A. Lambino | Moredo & Associates |

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|---|---|
| Mary Angelique Cuevas | Cebu Blue Pearl |
| Susan D. Jasarino | Jasper |
| Josette Mercedes Cellona | Gold |
| Estrellita C. Cabo | Cebu Blue Pearl |
| Rafael T. Go | China Jade |
| Jonson C. Go | China Jade |
| Derek Procesco G. Diaz III | Cebu Blue Pearl |
| Efren R. Villarosa | Ruby |
| Carlito A. Tiu | China Jade |
| Aurelio M. Cline | Jasper |
| Brenda B. Alarcon | Citrine |

| | |
|---|---|
| Ma. Cecilia T. Malaluan | Borromeo & Associates |
| Corazon Penaredondo | Chrysoprase |
| Jaime S. Duterte | Green Spinel |
| Josie A. Anzano | Gold |
| Ma. Elisa D. Balleo | Cebu Blue Pearl |
| Divina D. Reyes | Ruby |
| Violeta S. Ante | Ruby |
| Ma. Teresa Laguardia | Cebu Blue Pearl |
| Salvacion C. Majarse | Cebu Blue Pearl |
| Ma. Liza R. Ladores | Diamond |
| Raul M. Coronado | Tektite |

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|---|---|
| Mari Agnes B. Dasig | Jasper |
| Senato A. Abinales II | Cebu Blue Pearl |
| Glenn C. Reyes | Peridot |
| Juliet C. Go Que | China Jade |
| Maila Levine | Cebu Blue Pearl |
| Merle Sydel U. Odilao | Cebu Blue Pearl |
| Erwin S. Balantic | Iolite |
| Edna I. De Roxas | Jasper |
| Bernalyn S. Tanas | Bloodstone |
| Samuel Tatabac | Borromeo & Associates |
| Ruby Cardona | Garnet |

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|---|---|
| Althea Maapoy | Nephrite |
| Sebastian Arreola | RCS |
| Glynis Cruz | Iolite |
| Jefferson Ong | MM4 |
| Gisela Fernandez | Red Onyx |
| Erlinda Dela Pena | Quartz |
| Geraldine Santa Ana | Quartz |
| Miriam Bondoc | Quartz |
| Ma. Lourdes Lu | Ruby |
| Susan Arrogante | Jasper |
| Patrick Villanueva | Quartz |

# MESSAGES

*I am very proud to honor year 2002's outstanding agents in this year's recognition rites. While there are many familiar faces, I am encouraged by the fact that year after year, your tribe increases and that sales excellence has become synonymous with Pru Life UK. In a couple of months, there will be many among you who will enjoy world-class shopping in the fashion capitals of Milan and Paris, sites of the International Conference and the prestigious President's Club circle where only the best and the brightest Prudential agents are honored. Together we have undoubtedly made our contribution to Prudential's tradition of superiority in people, products and services.*

*The journey continues, but today, we shall stop awhile and recall the exciting moments when our agents went againts the flow of the ordinary and the negative, and triumphed. It has always been our mandate to focus on our mission and not to waver, no matter how disturbed our surroundings may be. Your tenacity and resilience make you a cut above the rest of your peers in the industry.*

*Congratulations champions, and let us keep that winning spirit as we meet the challenges of 2003!*

**Bobby G. Madrid**
**President and CEO**

*I would like to congratulate the Pru Life UK team on your outstanding performance in 2002! Pru Life UK continues to grow faster than our competitors and just as important continue to be a quality company, who is well respected in the life insurance industry.*

*To all of our agents, leaders and staff I want to thank you for your outstanding performance in 2002. Your loyalty and sense of teamwork is what sets Pru Life UK above the competition. Pru Life UK is a different kind of company who values people and takes a long term view of the business.*

*Prudential Corporation Asia is 100% committed to supporting Bobby and the Pru Life UK team in our quest to be the number 1 life insurance company in the Philippines. This may be a few years away but we are well on our way. Earlier this year we celebrated our Top 4 position—a significant accomplishment.*

*2002 was a great year for South Asia, when we experienced outstanding growth. We finished the year with three countries—Malaysia, India and Vietnam being Number 1; Indonesia Number 2; Singapore Number 3 and Pru Life UK Number 4. This means that six of seven operations are top five. Just as important we finish 2002 with 75,000 agents in South Asia and clearly the most professional agency in the region.*

*I look forward to a great 2003! With your help I have no doubt we will accomplish this goal.*

**Dan Bardin**
**Managing Director South asia**
**Prudential Corporation Asia**

We're here to listen.

PRU LIFE U.K.

Sts., Makati City Telephone Number (632) 884-8484 Fax Number (632) 884-8950 www.prulifeuk.com.ph

# THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRARIAN REFORM ADJUDICATION BOARD (DARAB)

# 2003 RULES OF PROCEDURE

Pursuant to the provisions of Sections 49 and 50 of Republic Act No. 6657 as amended and Section 34 of Executive Order No. 129-A in relation to Section 13 thereof, the following rules governing the conduct of proceedings before the Department of Agrarian Reform Adjudication Board (DARAB) and its Adjudicators, are hereby adopted and promulgated.

## RULE I
## GENERAL PROVISIONS

**SECTION 1. Title.** These Rules shall be known as the Department of Agrarian Reform Adjudication Board (DARAB) 2003 Rules of Procedure.

**SECTION 2. Construction.** These Rules shall be liberally construed to carry out objectives of the agrarian reform program and to promote just, expeditious and inexpensive adjudication and settlement of agrarian cases, disputes, or controversies.

All references in these Rules to the Members of the Board or the Adjudicators in the masculine (he, him, or his) shall be construed to also mean the feminine form (she, her, or hers).

**SECTION 3. Technical Rules Not Applicable.** The Board and its Regional and Provincial Adjudicators shall not be bound by technical rules of procedure and evidence and shall proceed to hear and decide all agrarian cases, disputes, or controversies in a most expeditious manner, employing all reasonable means to ascertain the facts of every case in accordance with justice and equity.

3.1 If and when a case comes up for adjudication wherein there is no applicable provision under these rules, the procedural law and jurisprudence generally applicable to agrarian disputes shall be applied;

3.2 In the absence of any applicable procedural law and jurisprudence generally applicable to agrarian disputes and in the interest of expeditious agrarian justice and whenever practicable, the Adjudication Board (Board), and its Regional Agrarian Reform Adjudicators (RARADs) and Provincial Agrarian Reform Adjudicators (PARADs) hereinafter referred to as the Adjudicators, shall have the authority to adopt any appropriate measure or procedure in any given situation or matter not covered by these Rules.

**SECTION 4. Official Seal.** The Board shall design and adopt a seal to be imprinted in all its resolutions, orders, decisions, and other documents as an indication of their official character. The seal of the DARAB shall depict its official function as the dispenser of agrarian justice. It shall be consistent with the basic design and symbolism of the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) logo.

## RULE II
## JURISDICTION OF THE BOARD AND ITS ADJUDICATORS

**SECTION 1.** Primary and Exclusive Original Jurisdiction. The Adjudicator shall have primary and exclusive original jurisdiction to determine and adjudicate the following cases:

1.1 The rights and obligations of persons, whether natural or juridical, engaged in the management, cultivation, and use of all agricultural lands covered by Republic Act (RA) No. 6657, otherwise known as the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law (CARL), and other related agrarian laws;
1.2 The preliminary administrative determination of reasonable and just compensation of lands acquired under Presidential Decree (PD) No. 27 and the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP);
1.3 The annulment or cancellation of lease contracts or deeds of sale or their amendments involving lands under the administration and disposition of the DAR or Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP);
1.4 Those cases involving the ejectment and dispossession of tenants and/or leaseholders;
1.5 Those cases involving the sale, alienation, pre-emption, and redemption of agricultural lands under the coverage of the CARL or other agrarian laws;
1.6 Those involving the correction, partition, cancellation, secondary and subsequent issuances of Certificates of Land Ownership Award (CLOAs) and Emancipation Patents (EPs) which are registered with the Land Registration Authority;
1.7 Those cases involving the review of leasehold rentals;
1.8 Those cases involving the collection of amortizations on payments for lands awarded under PD No. 27, as amended, RA No. 3844, as amended, and RA No. 6657, as amended, and other related laws, decrees, orders, instructions, rules, and regulations, as well as payment for residential, commercial, and industrial lots within the settlement and resettlement areas under the administration and disposition of the DAR;
1.9 Those cases involving the annulment or rescission of lease contracts and deeds of sale, and the cancellation or amendment of titles pertaining to agricultural lands under the administration and disposition of the DAR and LBP; as well as EPs issued under PD 266, Homestead Patents, Free Patents, and miscellaneous sales patents to settlers in settlement and re-settlement areas under the administration and disposition of the DAR;
1.10 Those cases involving boundary disputes over lands under the administration and disposition of the DAR and the LBP, which are transferred, distributed, and/or sold to tenant-beneficiaries and are covered by deeds of sale, patents, and certificates of title;
1.11 Those cases involving the determination of title to agricultural lands where this issue is raised in an agrarian dispute by any of the parties or a third person in connection with the possession thereof for the purpose of preserving the tenure of the agricultural lessee or actual tenant-farmer or farmer-beneficiaries and effecting the ouster of the interloper or intruder in one and the same proceeding; and
1.12 Those cases previously falling under the original and exclusive jurisdiction of the defunct Court of Agrarian Relations under Section 12 of PD No. 946 except those cases falling under the proper courts or other quasi-judicial bodies;
1.13 Such other agrarian cases, disputes, matters or concerns referred to it by the Secretary of the DAR.

**SECTION 2. Appellate Jurisdiction of the Board.** The Board shall have exclusive appellate jurisdiction to review, reverse, modify, alter, or affirm resolutions, orders, and decisions of its Adjudicators.

No order of the Adjudicators on any issue, question, matter, or incident raised before them shall be elevated to the Board until the hearing shall have been terminated and the case decided on the merits.

**SECTION 3. Agrarian Law Implementation Cases.**
The Adjudicator or the Board shall have no jurisdiction over matters involving the administrative implementation of RA No. 6657, otherwise known as the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law (CARL) of 1988 and other agrarian laws as enunciated by pertinent rules and administrative orders, which shall be under the exclusive prerogative of and cognizable by the Office of the Secretary of the DAR in accordance with his issuances, to wit:

3.1 Classification and identification of landholdings for coverage under the agrarian reform program and the initial issuance of CLOAs and EPs, including protests or oppositions thereto and petitions for lifting of such coverage;

3.2 Classification, identification, inclusion, exclusion, qualification, or disqualification of potential/actual farmer-beneficiaries;

3.3 Subdivision surveys of land under CARP;

3.4 Recall, or cancellation of provisional lease rentals, Certificates of Land Transfers (CLTs) and CARP Beneficiary Certificates (CBCs) in cases outside the purview of Presidential Decree (PD) No. 816, including the issuance, recall, or cancellation of EPs or CLOAs not yet registered with the Register of Deeds;

3.5 Exercise of the right of retention by the landowner;

3.6 Application for exemption from coverage under Section 10 of RA 6657;

3.7 Application for exemption pursuant to Department of Justice (DOJ) Opinion No. 44 (1990);

3.8 Exclusion from CARP coverage of agricultural land used for livestock, swine, and poultry raising;

3.9 Cases of exemption/exclusion of fish pond and prawn farms from the coverage of CARP pursuant to RA 7881;

3.10 Issuance of Certificate of Exemption for land subject of Voluntary Offer to Sell (VOS) and Compulsory Acquisition (CA) found unsuitable for agricultural purposes;

3.11 Application for conversion of agricultural land to residential, commercial, industrial, or other non agricultural uses and purposes including protests or oppositions thereto;

3.12 Determination of the rights of agrarian reform beneficiaries to homelots;

3.13 Disposition of excess area of the tenant's/farmer-beneficiary's landholdings;

3.14 Increase in area of tillage of a tenant/farmer-beneficiary;

3.15 Conflict of claims in landed estates administered by DAR and its predecessors; or

3.16 Such other agrarian cases, disputes, matters or concerns referred to it by the Secretary of the DAR.

**SECTION 4. Rule of the RARAD.** The RARAD shall be the Executive Adjudicator in his Region directly responsible to the Board. As such, he shall:

4.1 Exercise direct supervision over the PARAD which shall include, among others, the monitoring of cases in his Region;

4.2 Receive, hear, and adjudicate agrarian disputes and land cases within the Region;

He shall also hear the following cases:

4.2.1 Those cases that cannot be handled by the PARAD on account of inhibition or disqualification;

4.2.2 Those matters of such complexity and sensitivity that the decision thereof would constitute an important precedent affecting regional interest as may be determined by the Board; and

4.2.3 Preliminary determination of just compensation; and

4.2.4 Such other cases which the Board may assign.

4.3 Hear application for the issuance of a writ of preliminary injunction and/or temporary restraining order as may be directed by the Board.

**SECTION 5. Referral to Office of the Secretary (OSEC).** In the event that a case filed before the Adjudicator shall necessitate the determination of a prejudicial issue involving an agrarian law implementation case, the Adjudicator shall suspend the case and, for purposes of expediency, refer the same to the Office of the Secretary or his authorized representative in the locality.

Prejudicial issue is defined as one that arises in a case the resolution of which is a logical antecedent of the issue involved therein, and the jurisdiction over which pertains to the Office of the Secretary.

The prejudicial issue must be determinative of the case before the Board or the Adjudicator but the jurisdiction to try and resolve the question is lodged with the Office of the Secretary.

**SECTION 6. Powers.** The Members of the Board and the Adjudicators are empowered to summon witnesses, administer oaths, take testimony, require submission of reports, compel production of books and documents and answers to interrogatories, and to issue *subpoena duces tecum*, writs of procession, writs of execution, and other writs to enforce its orders and decisions through their Sheriffs or duly deputized officers.

For this purpose, whenever necessary, they shall direct the Philippine National Police, the Armed Forces of the Philippines or any of their component units, or other law enforcement agencies to assist in the enforcement and execution of their decisions, orders, writs, and other processes.

## RULE III
## MEDIATION OR CONCILIATION AT BARANGAY LEVEL

**SECTION 1. BARC Certification.** The Board or its Adjudicators shall not take cognizance of any agrarian case, dispute, or controversy, unless a certification from the Barangay Agrarian Reform Committee (BARC) of the barangay where the land involved is located is presented, to the effect that the dispute has been submitted to it for mediation or conciliation without any success or settlement, except that the said certification is not necessary in the following cases:

1.1 preliminary determination of just compensation for land acquisition;
1.2 where the issue pertains to whether or not the parcel of land shall be the subject of coverage under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP);
1.3 where the Secretary of the DAR directly refers the matter to the Board or Adjudicator; or
1.4 upon certification of the Municipal Agrarian Reform Officer (MARO) and the DAR Technologist of the non-existence of the BARC or the inability of the BARC to convene.

**SECTION 2. Referral to BARC.** If the filing of the complaint or petition is not accompanied by the required BARC Certification the same shall be referred to the BARC or DAR Technologist of the barangay where the land is located, as stated in the complaint, through the MARO of the area, directing:

2.1 The BARC to conduct mediation/conciliation proceedings, by requiring the parties to submit their supporting documents and to return the matter to the Adjudicator with a report of the result of the proceedings, together with the complete records submitted before it, within thirty (30) days from receipt of the complaint or petition: or

2.2 The DAR Technologist in case of non-existence of the BARC or its inability to convene for that purpose, to refer the matter back to the Adjudicator within five (5) days from receipt thereof with a certification of non-existence or inability of the BARC to convene.

**SECTION 3. Report of Settlement at BARC to Adjudicator.** If the case is referred by the Board or the Adjudicator and the same is settled at the BARC level, the results thereof shall be contained in a report to be submitted to the Board or the Adjudicator who referred the matter, within seven (7) days from the termination of the proceedings before the BARC, which report shall be the basis for the dismissal of the case before the Board or the Adjudicator.

**SECTION 4. Land or Parties in Two (2) Barangays.** Where the land in dispute straddles two or more barangays or the parties involved reside in different barangays, the BARC of the barangay where the larger portion of the property lies, shall have the authority to conduct mediation or conciliation proceedings under these Rules, unless for convenience and accessibility and upon agreement of the parties such proceedings should be held in another barangay within the Municipality or adjacent Municipality where the land in dispute is located.

**SECTION 5. Certification of Non-settlement.** If the BARC is unable to settle the dispute within thirty (30) days, it shall return the case to the Adjudicator of origin with a certification of non-settlement, furnishing a copy thereof to the parties.

**SECTION 6. Special Rules on Mediation and Conciliation.** The mediation and conciliation proceedings at the BARC or the PARO level, as the case may be, shall be conducted in accordance with the uniform rules adopted and promulgated by the DAR.

## RULE IV
## COMMENCEMENT OF ACTION, VENUE, AND CAUSE OF ACTION

**SECTION 1. Complaint or Petition.** An action before the Adjudicator shall be initiated by filing a sworn complaint or verified petition with the Adjudicator in the Province where the land involved is located.

Upon the filing of the complaint or petition, the hour, day, month, and year when it was filed shall be stamped thereon.

The complaint shall include the affidavit(s) of witnesses and documentary evidence, if any. The complaint or petition shall be duly signed by the complainant or petitioner, or his counsel, or by one who can show a special power of attorney to represent the complainant or petitioner.

It shall state the area of the land involved and the Barangay where the land is located, or if the land is located in two (2) or more barangays, the barangay where the larger portion of the land is located.

It shall also state the name and residence of the complainant or petitioner and that of the defendant or respondent, the facts constituting the cause of action, and the relief being sought.

Two (2) copies of the complaint or petition, and its annexes or attachments, and as many copies required to be served upon each of the defendants or respondents, shall be filed.

**SECTION 2. Certification and Verification on Related Cases.**

2.1 The complainant or petitioner shall certify under oath, in the complaint or in a sworn certification annexed thereto and simultaneously filed therewith, that:

2.1.1 he has not commenced any other action or filed any claim involving the same land or issue in any court, tribunal or quasi-judicial agency;

2.1.2 to the best of his knowledge, no such other action or claim is pending therein;

2.1.3 he has no knowledge of any controversy or proceeding involving the status of said parcel of land or the rights of person/s over its possession and entitlement to fruits or as beneficiary, the determination of which is filed before any tribunal, court, the DAR or any other agency;

2.1.4 should there be any same or similar action or proceeding involving the property, which is either pending or may have been terminated, he shall report such fact within five (5) days from knowledge thereof to the Adjudicator with whom the complaint or initiatory pleading was filed;

2.2 In the event the complaint or petition does not bear the Certification, the Adjudicator shall issue an order directing complainant or petitioner to comply with such requirement within ten (10) days from receipt of the Order.
2.3 Failure to file certification and verification of related cases within the aforementioned ten (10) day period and/or subsequent discovery of commission of forum-shopping may be grounds for summary dismissal. Dismissal for failure to file certification and verification shall be without prejudice to re-filing.

**SECTION 3. Amendment of Complaint or Petition.** The complaint or petition may be amended at any time before a responsive pleading is served or, in case of a reply, at any time within five (5) days after it is served.

After the responsive pleadings have been served, amendments may be allowed only upon motion filed with the Adjudicator, together with the amended petition or complaint sought to be admitted, appropriately indicating such amendments thereto and furnishing copies thereof to the adverse party.

**SECTION 4. Venue.**

4. 1 All actions shall be brought before the Adjudicator of the province where the land involved is located;

4.2 If the land is located or found in two or more provinces, the action shall be brought before the Adjudicator concerned where the larger portion of the land lies, unless for convenience, accessibility, and upon agreement of the parties and upon approval of the RARAD, the venue shall be with the Adjudicator of the other province;

4.3 However, upon motion of either of the parties and for compelling reasons, the hearing of the case may be changed or transferred to another place within or outside the Region by order of the RARAD or the Board.

**SECTION 5. One Suit for a Single Cause of Action.** A party may not institute more than one suit for a single cause of action.

**SECTION 6. Splitting a Single Cause of Action.** If two or more suits are instituted on the basis of a single cause of action, the filing of one or a judgment upon the merits in any one is available as a ground for the dismissal of the others.

**SECTION 7. Joinder of Causes of Action.** A complainant or petitioner having more than one cause of action against the same defendant or respondent arising out of the same questioned relationship shall join all of them in one complaint or petition.

## RULE V
## PARTIES AND CAPTION

**SECTION 1. Parties in Interest.** Every agrarian case must be initiated and defended in the name of the real party in interest. All parties having an interest in the matter shall be joined as complainant or petitioner. All persons who claim an interest in the dispute or subject matter thereof adverse to the complainant or petitioner, or who are necessary to a complete determination or settlement of the issues involved therein shall be joined as defendants or respondents.

If an additional respondent is impleaded in later pleading, the action is commenced with regard to him on the date of the filing of such pleading.

The heirs of the deceased may be allowed to substitute the deceased without requiring the appointment of an executor or administrator.

The Adjudicator shall forthwith order said legal representative or representatives to appear and substitute the deceased within a period of ten (10) days from notice.

**SECTION 2. Pauper Litigant.** Unless proven otherwise by the adverse party an agricultural lessee, share tenant, actual tiller, amortizing owner-cultivator, farm-worker, a member of any farmer's organization, association, or a farmers' cooperative, as alleged and applied for in a sworn complaint or motion, shall be entitled to the rights and privileges of a pauper litigant under these Rules without further proof thereof. He shall continue to enjoy such status as a pauper litigant at all levels of adjudication until the case is terminated.

**SECTION 3. Association or Corporation as Plaintiffs or Defendants.** When two or more persons, associated in any business, transact such business under a common name, whether it comprises the name of such persons or not, the associates may sue or be sued under such common name.

Persons associated in business that are sued under a common name, must all be named individually in the answer filed by them or in their behalf, stating their business address.

**SECTION 4. Alternative Defendants.** Where the complainant or the plaintiff is uncertain against who of several persons he is entitled to relief, he may join any or all of them as defendants in the alternative, although a right to relief against one may be inconsistent with a right to relief against the other.

**SECTION 5. Unknown Identity or Name of Defendants.** Whenever the identity or name of a defendant is unknown, he may be sued as the unknown party using such designation as the case may require. When his identity or true name is discovered, the pleading must be amended accordingly.

**SECTION 6. Entity without Juridical Personality as Defendants.** When two or more persons not organized as an entity with juridical personality enter into a transaction, they may be sued under the name by which they are generally or commonly known.

In the answer of such defendant, the names and addresses of the persons composing said entity must all be revealed.

## RULE VI
## SERVICE OF PLEADINGS

**SECTION 1. Service of Pleadings, Notices, and Resolutions.**

1.1 The party filing the pleading subsequent to the complaint shall serve the opposing party with a copy thereof in the manner provided for the theses Rules and proof of such service shall be filed with the records of the case; and
1.2 Summons, notices, and copies of resolutions, orders shall be served personally as far as practicable, or by registered mail upon the party himself, his counsel, or his duly authorized representative. However, notice to the counsel is notice to the party himself whether he is a complainant or petitioner, or a defendant or respondent.

**SECTION 2. Service Upon Associations.** When persons associated in business are sued under a common name, service may be effected upon all the defendants by serving upon any one of them, or upon the persons in charge of the office or place of business maintained in its common name. But such service shall not bind individually any person whose connection with the association has, upon due notice been severed before the action is brought.

**SECTION 3. Service Upon Private Domestic Juridical Entities.** If the defendant is a corporation, partnership, association or cooperative organized and registered under Philippine laws with a juridical personality, service may be made on the president, managing partner, general manager, corporate or board secretary, treasurer or in-house counsel.

**SECTION 4. Service Upon Public Corporation.** When the respondent is the Republic of the Philippines, service may be effected on the Solicitor General. In case of a province, city, municipality, or other public corporations, service may be effected on its chief executive or on such other officer as the law or adjudicator may direct.

**SECTION 5. Return of Service.** The Sheriff or other designated officer who personally served the summons, notice, order, or decision shall submit his return within five (5) days from the date of his service thereof, stating therein the name of the person served and the date of receipt of the same or if no service was effected, the serving officer shall state the reasons therefore.

**SECTION 6. Proof of Completeness of Service.** The return is *prima facie* proof of the facts indicated therein.

Service by registered mail is completed upon receipt by the addressee, his counsel, or by his duly authorized representative or agent.

**SECTION 7. Substituted Service.** If service of pleadings, motions, notices, and resolutions, orders and other papers cannot be made under the preceding sections, the office and place of residence of the party or his counsel being unknown, service may be made by delivering the copy to the Clerk of the Adjudicator or the Board, with proof of failure of both personal service and service by mail. The service is complete at the time of such delivery.

### RULE VII
### SUMMONS, ANSWER, AND SUBMISSION OF EVIDENCE

**SECTION 1. Issuance of Summons, Time to Answer, and Submission of Evidence.** If the complaint or petition is filed together with the BARC Certification and the affidavit(s) of witnesses, with the Adjudicator, as required in Rule III of these Rules, or upon the return of the complaint referred to the BARC in accordance with said Rule III, the corresponding summons and notice of hearing shall be issued attaching therewith a copy of such complaint, petition, affidavit, and documentary evidence, if any.

The summons and notice of hearing shall direct the defendant or respondent to file an answer to the complaint or petition or submit counter-affidavits and other documentary evidence, if any, within a non-extendible period of fifteen (15) days from receipt thereof, furnishing a copy to the petitioner/s or the complainant/s. The summons shall specify the date, time, and place of the hearing and shall order the parties and their witnesses to appear at the scheduled date of hearing.

If the defendant or respondent cannot be served within a reasonable time as provided in the preceding paragraph, service may be effected:

1.1 by leaving copies of the summons at the defendant's or respondent's residence with some person of suitable age and discretion residing therein; or
1.2 by leaving the copies at defendant's or respondent's office or regular place of business with some competent person in charge thereof.

The provisions on service of summons as provided in the Rules of Court shall have suppletory effect. However, if publication is effected pursuant to the above rule, only the notice of summons and notice of hearing shall be published and not the entire complaint or petition.

The summons and all other notices to be issued by the Adjudicator shall be written in English and in Filipino.

**SECTION 2. By Whom Served.** The summons and notice of hearing with the attached copy of the complaint, petition, affidavit and documentary evidence, if any, may be personally served by any DAR employee, including the Municipal Agrarian Reform Officer (MARO) or any other personnel authorized by the Adjudicator issuing the summons or by registered mail to the defendant or respondent within two (2) days from the filing or return thereof, as the case may be.

**SECTION 3. Answer Required.** The defendant or respondent must file a sworn answer to the complaint or petition by responding with admissions or specific denials of each and every allegation in the complaint or petition, or if this cannot be done, by averring lack of sufficient knowledge thereof, which will be deemed as a specific denial.

A mere general denial will not be deemed as an answer.

The defendant or respondent may incorporate in his answer a motion to dismiss on the ground of prescription, lack of jurisdiction, failure to state a cause of action, improper venue or when there is another action pending between the same parties for the same cause or where the cause of action is barred by a prior judgment.

An answer must be accompanied by the affidavit(s) of respondent's witnesses. The answer may include a counterclaim or cross-claim for damages, attorney's fees, or litigation expenses.

**SECTION 4. Time to Answer Non-Extendible.** The fifteen (15) day-reglementary period within which the defendant or respondent is required to answer shall not be extended.

**SECTION 5. Amendment of Answer.** The defendant or respondent may amend his answer upon motion filed with the Adjudicator, together with the amended answer sought to be admitted, notifying the complainant or petitioner of the motion with the amended answer attached hereto, and giving the latter the opportunity to be heard thereon.

If the motion is granted, a new copy of the entire answer incorporating and appropriately indicating the amendment thereon shall be filed with the Adjudicator, furnishing a copy thereof to the complainant or petitioner.

The amended answer supersedes the original answer.

**SECTION 6. Answer to Amended Complaint or Petition.** The defendant or respondent shall file his answer to the amended complaint or petition within fifteen (15) days from receipt thereof, furnishing a copy to the petitioner of complainant.

If no new answer is filed, the answer previously filed shall serve as the answer to the amended complaint or petition.

**SECTION 7. No Default Upon Failure to Answer.** When the defendant or respondent fails to file an answer, no declaration of default shall be made nor judgment by default be rendered.

The complainant or petitioner must proceed to prove his case and defendant or respondent shall be allowed to participate in subsequent proceedings and such defendant or respondent may request by motion that he be furnished copies of orders, pleadings and other processes.

**SECTION 8. Order upon Receipt of Answer or Lapse of Reglementary Period.** Within five (5) days from receipt of the Answer or from the lapse of the fifteen (15) day reglementary period to file Answer, without any Answer having been filed, as the case may be, the Adjudicator shall issue an Order setting the date of the initial preliminary conference which must be held within forty-five (45) days from the date of such Order.

The Order shall likewise contain a warning that failure to submit affidavits upon the termination of the initial preliminary conference shall mean that no additional affidavits may be filed by the parties.

However, even after the initial preliminary conference has been terminated, affidavits may still be filed by the parties in cases where a party desires to present additional witnesses, with leave of the Adjudicator.

**SECTION 9. Affidavits.** – The affidavits required to be submitted under this Rule shall state only facts of direct personal knowledge of the affiants and shall show their competence to testify to the matters stated therein.

A violation of this requirement may subject the party or the counsel who submits the same to disciplinary action, and shall be cause to expunge the inadmissible affidavit or portion thereof from the record.

All affidavits required to be submitted under this Rule shall be sworn to before the presiding Adjudicator, or in his absence, any other Adjudicator or any other person authorized to administer oaths under the Revised Administrative Code.

**SECTION 10. Reply.** A reply may be filed within five (5) days from service of the pleading responded to.

### RULE VIII
### APPEARANCES

**SECTION 1. Appearance.** A lawyer appearing for a party is presumed to be properly authorized for that purpose. A non-lawyer may appear before the Board or any of its Adjudicators, if:

1.1 He represents himself as a party to the case;
1.2 He represents a farmer's organization or its members, provided that he shall present proof of authority from the organization or its members or such authority duly signed by the Chief Executive Officer of the organization;
1.3 He is a law student who has successfully completed his third year of the regular four-year prescribed law curriculum and is enrolled in a recognized law school's clinical legal education program approved by the Supreme Court. His appearance pursuant to this rule shall be under the direct supervision and control of a member of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines duly-accredited by the law school. Any and all pleadings, motions, memoranda or other papers to be filed must be signed by the supervising attorney for and in behalf of the legal aid clinic.
1.4 He is a DAR employee duly authorized by the appropriate Head of Office in accordance with the internal regulations of the Department of Agrarian Reform. For this purpose, the DAR employee must have the prescribed authorization form before he may be allowed to appear before the Board or any of its Adjudicators

Provided, that when there are two or more representatives for any individual or group, such individual or group should choose only one representative.

**SECTION 2. Manner of Appearance.** Appearances may be oral or in writing. The complete business address of the counsel or representative shall be made of record and the adverse party or his counsel shall be properly notified. Any change in the address of counsel or representative shall be filed with the Adjudicator with notice to the adverse party and counsel.

**SECTION 3. assignment of DAR Lawyer or Legal Officer.** A party appearing without counsel or represented by a non-lawyer may be assigned a counsel *de officio* from among the qualified DAR employees designated by the appropriate Head of Office or a member of the bar who is willing to act as such counsel *de officio*.

**SECTION 4. Authority to Bind Party.** Attorneys and other representatives of parties cannot, without a special power of attorney, enter into a compromise agreement with the opposing party when a full or partial discharge of client's interest is made.

### RULE IX
### PRELIMINARY CONFERENCE

**SECTION 1. When Conducted.** After the last pleading shall have been served and filed, or upon receipt of the BARC certification of non-settlement in instances when the case was referred to the BARC for mediation/conciliation, the Adjudicator shall set the case for a preliminary conference.

**SECTION 2. Nature and Purpose.** During the preliminary conference, the Adjudicator:

2.1 shall consider the possibility of an amicable settlement or of a submission to alternative modes of dispute resolution;

2.2 may resolve and dispose of preliminary incidents related to the case; and

2.3 take up other matters as may simplify and aid in the prompt disposition of the case.

**SECTION 3. Notice of Preliminary Conference.** The notice of the preliminary conference shall be served upon the representative or counsel of record or the party himself if he has no representative or counsel of record.

**SECTION 4. Appearance of Parties.** It shall be the duty of parties and their counsel to appear at the preliminary conference.

The counsel or his representative cannot, without a written authority or express consent of his client, enter into an amicable settlement, submit to alternative modes of dispute resolution, or enter into stipulations or admissions of facts or of documents.

**SECTION 5. Effect of Failure to Appear.** If either or both parties fail to appear for preliminary conference, despite proper notice, the conference shall be deemed terminated and the Adjudicator shall render a decision on the basis of the evidence on record.

**SECTION 6. Proceedings during the Initial Preliminary Conference.** The Adjudicator shall, during the initial preliminary conference, endeavor to have the parties reach an amicable settlement of the case.

In the event that the parties are able to agree on an amicable settlement of the case, they shall execute a compromise agreement, which shall be subject to the approval to the Adjudicator, in accordance with Section 8 of Rule X hereof.

During he initial preliminary conference, the parties shall be given an opportunity to file any supplemental affidavits or documents in support of their case.

However, in the event that the Adjudicator denies the compromise agreement or the parties are not able to reach an amicable settlement of the case, the Adjudicator shall set a second preliminary conference which shall be held within fifteen (15) days after the issuance of the Order setting that date. Upon termination of the initial preliminary conference, the parties and their counsels shall be advised to evaluate the affidavits submitted and to be ready to manifest during the second preliminary conference the names of the affiants they wish to be subjected to clarificatory questioning and the names of persons they wish to be summoned to appear.

**SECTION 7. Proceedings during the Second Preliminary Conference.** During the second preliminary conference, the Adjudicator shall determine:

7.1.1 whether any of the parties intends to propound clarificatory questions on any of the affiants/witnesses;

7.1.2 whether there is a need to issue the appropriate *subpoena* upon any witness who refuses to execute an affidavit; and
7.1.3 the dates of subsequent hearings for the purpose of examining the witnesses.

Considering the summary nature of the proceedings, the Adjudicator, during the second preliminary conference, shall set the number and dates for hearing taking into account the factual issues which are controverted after an evaluation of the affidavits and evaluation of the purpose for which witnesses are summoned to appear.

In the event that a witness refuses to execute an affidavit, the party presenting such witness shall, during the second preliminary conference, file a motion for the issuance of the appropriate *subpoena* directing the person to appear during the hearing.

**SECTION 8. Record of Preliminary Conference.** The proceedings in the conference shall be recorded. Upon termination of the same, the adjudicator shall issue an order, which shall embody the matters taken up therein, and the date set for the initial hearing of the case, if any.

The aforementioned order shall control the subsequent proceedings of the case, subject to such modifications, which may be made to prevent manifest injustice.

### RULE X
### PROCEEDINGS BEFORE THE ADJUDICATORS

**SECTION 1. Nature of Proceedings.** The proceedings before the Adjudicator shall be non-litigious in nature.

Subject to the essential requirements of due process, the technicalities of law and procedures and the rules governing the admissibility and sufficiency of evidence obtained in the courts of law shall not apply.

The Adjudicator shall employ reasonable means to ascertain the facts of the controversy including a thorough examination or re-examination of witnesses and the conduct of ocular inspection of the premises in question, if necessary.

**SECTION 2. Role of the Adjudicator in the Proceedings.** The Adjudicator shall personally conduct the hearing. He shall take full control of the proceedings. He may examine the parties and witnesses freely with respect to the matters at issue, and shall limit the right of the parties or their counsels to ask question only for the purpose of clarifying the points of law at issue or of facts involved in the case. He shall also limit the presentation of evidence by the contending parties only to matters relevant and material to the issues and necessary for a just, expeditious, and inexpensive disposition of the case.

**SECTION 3. Orders or Resolutions During the Hearing of the Case.** The order or resolution of the Adjudicator on any issue, question, matter, or incident raised before him shall be valid and effective until the hearing of the same shall have been terminated and resolved on the merits.

**SECTION 4. Hearing.** If the parties fail to arrive at an amicable settlement, in whole or in part, and the Adjudicator or the counsel for either or both parties have clarificatory questions, the Adjudicator may, *motu proprio* or upon motion of either or both the parties, proceed to hear the case.

No witness shall be allowed to testify unless his affidavit was previously submitted to the Adjudicator during the initial preliminary conference except as provided for in the last paragraph of Section 8, Rule VII hereof.

At the hearing, the affidavits submitted by the parties shall constitute the direct testimonies of the witnesses who executed the same. Witnesses who testified may be subjected to clarificatory questioning provided that a witness summoned to appear in accordance with Section 7, Rule IX hereof may be subjected to such clarificatory questioning even without submitting his affidavit.

Upon the admission of the documentary and testimonial evidence of the parties, and the filing of the parties' respective verified position papers as provided for in this Rule, the case or incident shall be deemed submitted for decision or resolution.

**SECTION 5. Verified Position Papers.** In case the parties fail to arrive at an amicable settlement of the case, and the Adjudicator or counsel for either or both of the parties do not have any further clarificatory questions, no hearing shall be conducted by the Adjudicator. However, in any case, whether a hearing is conducted or not, the parties shall be required to simultaneously submit their respective verified position papers within a period of ten (10) days from receipt of an Order to that effect. At the option of the parties, copies of the draft decision stored or saved in a diskette in a word-processing format which is generally acceptable, may be filed with the Adjudicator.

If after the verified position papers have been filed, there appears a need to conduct a clarificatory hearing, the Adjudicator may proceed to conduct the same.

Upon filing of the verified position papers by both parties, or after the clarificatory hearing shall have been concluded by the Adjudicator, as the case may be, the case shall be deemed submitted for decision or resolution.

No additional affidavits or documents shall be allowed to be filed along with the verified position paper, except in case of newly-discovered evidence.

**SECTION 6. Record of Proceedings.** The proceedings before the Adjudicator shall be recorded by a stenographer. In the absence of an available stenographer, the Adjudicator shall make a written summary of the proceedings, including the substance of the evidence presented which shall be attested by the parties or their counsel and shall form part of the records of the case. Should any party or counsel refuse to sign, the reason for such refusal shall be noted therein.

**SECTION 7. Doubts to Be Resolved in Favor of the Beneficiary.** Any reasonable doubt in the interpretation of these Rules, as well as in the interpretation of contracts and stipulations between the contending parties, shall be resolved in favor of the beneficiary, potential beneficiary, tenant farmer, farm-worker, agricultural lessee, farmers' cooperative, association, or organization.

**SECTION 8. Settlement.** At any stage of the proceedings, the Adjudicator or the Board, as the case may be, shall exert all efforts and take positive steps for the amicable settlement of the case.

Should the parties arrive at any settlement as to the whole or part of the dispute, the same shall be reduced into writing in a language or dialect known to, and spoken by the parties and signed by them before the Adjudicator or the Board.

If a compromise agreement is entered into by the parties in a manner other than as specified above, the Adjudicator or the Board shall set the case for a hearing for the purpose of determining the authenticity and due execution thereof before approving it.

The settlement shall be approved after the Adjudicator or the Board is satisfied that it was voluntarily entered into by the parties and the same is not contrary to relevant laws, rules, and regulations, and after having explained to them the terms and consequences thereof.

The order or decision approving the Compromise Agreement shall have the effect of a judgment of the case, which shall immediately be final and executory.

In all cases where the beneficiaries, tenant farmers, or farm-workers are not assisted by a private counsel, the Adjudicator or the Board shall coordinate with the proper office of the DAR to ensure that said parties are assisted by a Lawyer or Legal Officer in arriving at a settlement.

**SECTION 9. Period to Render the Decision.** The Adjudicator shall render the decision on the merits of the case within thirty (30) days after the filling of the verified position papers or after the lapse of the period to file a verified position paper without the same having been filed or after the clarificatory hearing shall have been concluded by the Adjudicator.

**SECTION 10. Award and Damages.** The Adjudicator or the Board, in appropriate cases, may award actual, compensatory, exemplary, and moral damages and attorney's fees. The attorney's fees to be awarded should be reasonable.

**SECTION 11. Finality of Judgment.** Unless appealed, the decision, order, or resolution disposing of the case on the merits shall be final after the lapse of fifteen (15) days from receipt of a copy thereof by the counsel or representative on record, or by the party himself whether or not he is appearing on his own behalf whichever is later. In all cases, the parties themselves shall be furnished with a copy of the decision, order or resolution.

**SECTION 12. Motion for Reconsideration.** Within fifteen (15) days from receipt of notice of the order, resolution, or decision of the Board or Adjudicator, a party may move for reconsideration of such order, resolution, or decision on the grounds that:

12.1 the findings of fact in the said decision, order, or resolution are not supported by substantial evidence; or

12.2 the conclusions stated therein are contrary to law and jurisprudence.

The motion for reconsideration shall be filed together with proof of service of a copy thereof upon the adverse party.

Only one (1) Motion for Reconsideration shall be allowed for each party.

The filing of a Motion for Reconsideration shall interrupt the period to perfect an appeal. If the motion is denied, the aggrieved party shall have the remaining period within which to perfect his appeal. Said period shall not be less than five (5) days in any event, reckoned from the receipt of the notice of denial.

### RULE XI
### MOTIONS IN GENERAL

**SECTION 1. Motion Defined** – Every application for relief, other than by principal pleadings.

**SECTION 2. Form** – All motions shall be in writing, except those made in the course of a hearing or trial.

**SECTION 3. Contents** – a motion shall state the relief sought and the grounds upon which it is based and, if necessary, shall be accompanied by supporting affidavits and documents.

**SECTION 4. Notice** – A copy of the motion together with copies of supporting affidavits or documents shall be served by the movant upon all parties concerned, at least three (3) days before the hearing thereof.

The Adjudicator or the Board may, however, hear a motion on shorter notice upon good cause, especially on matters, which may be disposed of *motu proprio*.

**SECTION 5. Proof of Service.** No motion shall be acted upon by the Adjudicator or by the Board without proof of service thereof except when he/it is satisfied that the rights of the adverse party are not affected.

**SECTION 6. Expeditious Resolution of Motions.** All motions shall be resolved within a reasonable period from its submission for resolution. The same shall be considered submitted for resolution upon the filing of the last pleading supporting or opposing the motion. Any motion for reconsideration of an interlocutory order shall be filed within fifteen (15) days from receipt thereof.

**SECTION 7. Non-allowable motions.** The following motions shall not be allowed:

7.1 Motion to declare defendant or respondent in default or for a default judgment;

7.2 All other motions filed before an Answer, except Motions to Dismiss on the ground of prescription, lack of jurisdiction or failure to state a cause of action, improper venue or when there is another action pending between the same parties for the same cause or where the cause of action is barred by a prior judgment;

7.3 Motion for extension of time to file an appeal, motion for reconsideration, or memorandum.

## RULE XII
## INTERVENTION

**SECTION 1. Who May Intervene.** A person who has a legal interest on the matter in litigation, or in the success of either of the parties or an interest against both, or has a substantial right or interest in the subject matter of the case before the Adjudicator or Board, may be allowed to intervene in the action by filing a pleading-in-intervention.

**SECTION 2. Time to Intervene.** A person desiring to intervene may, before judgment by the Adjudicator or the Board, file a motion for leave to intervene attaching the pleading-in-intervention with notice upon all the parties to the action.

In allowing or disallowing a motion for leave to intervene, the Adjudicator or the Board shall consider if the intervention will unduly delay or prejudice the adjudication of the rights of the original parties or if the intervenor's right may be fully protected in a separate proceeding.

**SECTION 3. Answer-in-Intervention.** The answer-in-intervention shall be filed within fifteen (15) days from notice of the order allowing the intervention, unless a different period is fixed by the Adjudicator or the Board.

## RULE XIII
## DECISIONS/RESOLUTIONS/FINAL ORDERS

**SECTION 1. Decisions/Resolutions/Final Orders.** The decisions/resolutions/final orders of the Adjudicator shall be in writing, prepared and signed by him and filed with the Regional or Provincial Clerk of the Adjudicator. It shall clearly and completely state the findings of fact and specify the evidence and the law or jurisprudence upon which the decision is based.

The decisions/resolutions/final orders of the Board shall be in writing, prepared by the Member to whom it is assigned, signed by the Members of the Board and filed with the Executive Director of the Board Secretariat.

**SECTION 2. Promulgation.** After the judgment/resolution/final order is signed by the Adjudicator or Members of the Board, the same shall be filed with the Regional or Provincial Clerk of the Adjudicator or of the Board, respectively, who shall indicate thereon the date of promulgation thereof.

**SECTION 3. Notice of Decision/Resolution/Final Orders.** Upon promulgation of the decision/resolution/final order, the Regional or Provincial Clerk of the Adjudicator or of the Board, as the case may be, shall immediately cause copies thereof to be served upon the parties and their counsel as well as the DAR and the government officials who may take part in the execution of implementation of such decision/resolution/final order.

In the event that a copy of the decision cannot be served upon the parties and/or their counsel as well the DAR and other government officials for whatever reason, a notice of the decision/resolution/final order shall be served upon the latter in the manner provided for in Section 2, Rule VII hereof. If such manner of service fails, the notice of the decision shall be served by publication in a newspaper of general circulation. For this purpose, the Board shall schedule, at least once a year, the publication of said notice falling under this section. However, at the option of the prevailing party, the publication of the notice of decision falling under this section may be undertaken ahead of the schedule fixed by the Board, provided that all expenses of publication shall be shouldered by the prevailing party. All notices to be published under this Rule shall contain the DARAB Case Number and the names of all parties in the case.

All the Adjudicators shall submit to the Board a periodic quarterly report of all decisions rendered, for the purpose of including the same in the annual publication of the notice of decisions.

All notices of decision/resolution/final order shall be written in English and in Filipino.

**SECTION 4. Entry of Decisions/Resolutions/Final Orders.** If no appeal or motion for reconsideration is filed within the time provided in these rules, the decision/resolution/final order of the Board or Adjudicator shall be entered in the Book of Entries of Decisions by the Clerk of the Board and the Regional or Provincial Clerk of the Adjudicator, respectively. The date of finality of the decision/resolution/final order shall be deemed to be the date of its entry.

The record of entry shall contain the dispositive portion of the decision/resolution/final orders and shall be signed by the Clerk of the Adjudicator or of the Board, as the case may be, with a certification that such decision/resolution/final order has become final and executory.

## RULE XIV
## APPEALS

**SECTION 1. Appeal to the Board.** An appeal may be taken to the Board from a resolution, decision or final order of the Adjudicator that completely disposes of the case by either or both of the parties within a period of fifteen (15) days from receipt of the resolution/decision/final order appealed from or of the denial of the movant's motion for reconsideration in accordance with Section 12, Rule IX by:

1.1 filing a Notice of Appeal with the Adjudicator who rendered the decision or final order appealed from;
1.2 furnishing copies of said Notice of Appeal to all parties and the Board; and
1.3 paying an appeal fee of Seven Hundred Pesos (PhP700.00) to the DAR Cashier where the Office of the Adjudicator is situated or through postal money order, payable to the DAR Cashier where the Office of the Adjudicator is situated, at the option of the appellant.

A pauper litigant shall be exempt from the payment of the appeal fee.

Proof of service of Notice of Appeal to the affected parties and to the Board and payment of appeal fee shall be filed, within the reglementary period, with the Adjudicator *a quo* and shall form part of the records of the case.

Non-compliance with the foregoing shall be a ground for dismissal of the appeal.

**SECTION 2. Grounds.** The aggrieved party may appeal to the Board from a final order, resolution or decision of the Adjudicator on any of the following grounds;

2.1 That errors in the findings of fact or conclusions of law were committed which if not corrected, would cause grave and irreparable damage or injury to the appellant; or

2.2 That the order, resolution or decision was obtained through fraud or coercion.

**SECTION 3. Notice of Appeal.** The Notice of Appeal shall:

3. 1 be filed with the Adjudicator concerned in three (3) legible copies with proof of service to the affected parties and the Board, and payment of appeal fee unless appellant is a pauper litigant as provided for in Rule V hereof;

3.2 indicate the parties to the appeal;

3.3 specify the judgment or final order appealed from;

3.4 state the material dates showing the timeliness of the appeal; and

3.5 be filed with a certification as provided for in Section 2, Rule IV.

**SECTION 4. Perfection of Appeal.** An appeal is deemed perfected upon compliance with Section 1 of this Rule.

A pauper litigant's appeal is deemed perfected upon the filing of the Notice of Appeal in accordance with said Section 1 of this Rule.

**SECTION 5. Motions After Filing of Notice of Appeal.** Any motion, after the filing of the Notice of Appeal and before the elevation of the case records to the Board, shall be filed with the Board, attaching thereto a certified copy of the decision of the Adjudicator, the Notice of Appeal and proof of payment of appeal fee. A copy of the motion shall be furnished to the Adjudicator and the opposing parties.

The Board may act on the motion regardless of whether or not the case records have been elevated or transmitted to it.

**SECTION 6. Transmittal of Appeal and Records.** The Adjudicator concerned shall, after the lapse of the reglementary period for perfecting an appeal and proof of payment of appeal fee, transmit the appeal to the Board, together with the complete records of the case, furnishing the parties with copies of the letter of transmittal to the Board.

The records of the case shall contain, among others, a table of contents, all original pleadings filed, documentary exhibits, transcripts or written summaries of the hearings, notices, orders or decisions of the Adjudicator and proofs of service thereof, which shall all be numbered consecutively and initialed by the Adjudicator or the authorized Clerk of the Board on each and every page thereof.

If the records of the case are not received by the Board Secretariat within thirty (30) days from receipt of a copy of the notice of appeal by the Board in accordance with this Rule, the Board, *motu proprio* or upon motion of the appellant, shall issue an order for the transmittal of such records.

**SECTION 7. Docketing of Cases.** Upon the receipt of the records of the case on appeal together with proof of payment of the appeal fee, the Executive Director of the Board Secretariat shall docket the case and notify the parties thereof.

**SECTION 8. Caption.** In all cases appealed to the Board, the title shall remain as it was before the Adjudicator but the party appealing shall be further called the "appellant" and the adverse party the "appellee", and the case shall be assigned a docket number.

**SECTION 9. Appeal Memorandum.** Within five (5) days from receipt of notice of appeal, the Adjudicator shall issue an order either:

9.1 Stating that the appeal was not perfected in accordance with the rules; or

9.2 stating that the appeal had been perfected and therefore the appellant is required to file an appeal memorandum with the Board within ten (10) days from receipt of such order, furnishing a copy thereof to the appellee and his counsel who may reply thereto if he so desires, within the same period of time from receipt of copy thereof.

At the option of the parties, they may also file a draft decision with the Board together with a copy thereof stored or saved in a diskette in word-processing format which is generally acceptable.

After the filing of their respective appeal memoranda with the Board or the lapse of the period within which to file the same, the case shall be deemed submitted for resolution. In case no appeal memorandum has been filed within the reglementary period, the Board may proceed to render judgment thereon based on the records of the case.

**SECTION 10. Frivolous or Dilatory Appeal.** To discourage frivolous or dilatory appeals, the Board shall fix and impose reasonable penalties, including, but not limited to, fine or censure upon erring parties.

**SECTION 11. Withdrawal of Appeal.** An appeal may be withdrawn at any time prior to the promulgation of the resolution, order or decision, except when public interest is prejudiced thereby. Upon approval of the withdrawal of an appeal, the case shall stand as if no appeal had ever been taken.

**SECTION 12. When Appeal is Submitted for Decision.** The appeal shall be deemed submitted for decision upon the filing of the last pleading or memorandum as may be required or permitted to be filed by the Board, or upon the expiration of the period for its filing.

**SECTION 13. Period to Decide Appeal.** The Board shall render its decision on appeal before it, as much as possible, within thirty (30) days after its submission.

**SECTION 14. Finality of Decisions/Resolutions.** Decisions/resolutions/orders of the Board shall become final after the lapse of fifteen (15) days from receipt of a copy thereof by the counsel or representative on record, or by the party himself whether or not he is appearing on his own behalf, whichever is later, unless an appeal or motion for reconsideration thereof is filed within such period. In all cases, the parties themselves shall be furnished with a copy of the decision/ resolution/order.

If a copy of the decision cannot be served personally or by mail and publication is effected in accordance with Section 3, Rule 13 hereof, said decision shall become final after the lapse of sixty (60) days from the date of publication.

Only one motion for reconsideration by either party shall be allowed and entertained.

## RULE XV
## JUDICIAL REVIEW

**SECTION 1. Appeal to the Court of Appeals.** Any decision, order, resolution, award or ruling of the Board on any agrarian dispute or any matter pertaining to the application, implementation, enforcement, interpretation of agrarian reform laws or rules and regulations promulgated thereunder, may be brought on appeal within fifteen (15) days from receipt of a copy thereof, to the Court of Appeals in accordance with the Rules of Court.

**SECTION 2. Findings of Fact; Final and Conclusive.** The findings of fact of the Board, if based on substantial evidence, shall be final and conclusive upon the courts pursuant to Section 54, Republic Act No. 6657.

**SECTION 3. No Restraining Order or Preliminary Injunction.** No court in the Philippines shall have jurisdiction to issue any restraining order or writ of preliminary injunction against the Board or its Adjudicators in any case, dispute or controversy arising from, necessary to, or in connection with the application, implementation, enforcement or interpretation of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law and other pertinent laws on agrarian reform and regulations promulgated thereunder pursuant to Section 55, Republic Act No. 6657.

## RULE XVI
## RELIEF FROM DECISION/RESOLUTION/FINAL ORDER

**SECTION 1. Petition for Relief from Decision/Resolution/Final Order.** When a decision/resolution/final order is rendered by the Adjudicator against any party, through fraud, accident, mistake and excusable negligence and such party has no other adequate remedy available to him in the ordinary course of law, he may file a petition for relief with said Adjudicator, praying that the decision/resolution/final order be set aside.

**SECTION 2. Form and Time of Filing of Petition.** A petition for relief must be verified and a copy thereof together with its annexes and supporting affidavits, if any, must be furnished to the adverse party or parties and filed within sixty (60) days from the time the fraud, accident, mistake or excusable negligence was discovered and within six (6) months after the decision/resolution/final order was rendered.

The petition must be accompanied by affidavits and supporting documents showing the fraud, accident, mistake or excusable negligence and relied upon, whichever is applicable as well as the proof of service of the petition on the other party or parties. Without such proof of service the petition shall not be entertained.

**SECTION 3. Answer.** Should the petition be sufficient in form and substance, the Adjudicator shall issue an order directing the party or parties to file their answer thereto within fifteen (15) days from receipt of said order. The order shall also set the date for the hearing of the petition.

**SECTION 4. Procedure.** If after due hearing, the petition is found to be meritorious, the Adjudicator shall set aside the questioned decision/resolution/final order and he shall then proceed to hear the principal case.

When an appeal from the denial of the petition for relief is granted, the Board shall give due course to the appeal, as if a timely and proper appeal has been made from the questioned decision/resolution/final order.

## RULE XVII
## PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION/SUPERVISION OF HARVEST

**SECTION 1. Preliminary Injunction, When Granted.** A writ of preliminary injunction, restraining order or a *status quo* order may be granted by the Board or any two (2) of its Members or the Adjudicators, when it is established, on the basis of allegations in the sworn complaint or motion, which shall be duly supported by affidavits of merit, that the acts being complained of, if not enjoined, would cause some grave and irreparable damage or injury to ay of the parties in interest so as to render ineffectual the decision which may be in favor of such party. Should the Board or the Adjudicator believe that it is necessary to post a bond, it shall fix the reasonable amount of the bond to be filed by the party applying for the injunction in favor of the party who might suffer thereby, if it is finally determined that the complainant or petitioner is not entitled thereto. Upon the filing and approval of such bond, a writ of injunction may be issued.

The Board or the Adjudicator may also require the performance of a particular act or acts, subject to the rules herein provided, in which case, it shall be known as a preliminary mandatory injunction.

**SECTION 2. No Injunction to Restrain Tilling or Harvesting.** In cases where the tenurial status of a person is at issue, the Board or its Adjudicator shall not issue any order restraining or enjoining the actual tiller from cultivating the land, or harvesting the standing crops nor issue an order impounding the harvest, if any, without providing him with at least fifty percent (50%) of the net harvest

In case where one or more persons claim rights adverse to the tiller on the landholding in questioned, any order for supervision of the harvest shall provide at least twenty five (25%) percent of the net harvest for the actual tiller.

**SECTION 3. Temporary Restraining Order.** A temporary restraining order issued *ex-parte*, shall be valid only for twenty (20) days from the date the same is received by the respondent. During this period, the parties shall be required to present evidence to substantiate their respective petitions on whether or not a preliminary injunction shall be granted. The period of twenty (20) days may be extended upon motion of the proper party on valid grounds, for another twenty (20) days from the expiration of the original period, or *motu propio* by the Board. Thereafter, no motion for further extension of the temporary restraining order shall be allowed. After due notice and hearing, and before the lapse of the temporary restraining order, the issue of preliminary injunction or *status quo* should be resolved.

**SECTION 4. Supervision of Harvest.** An order for the supervision of harvest may also be granted by the Board or any two (2) of its Members or the Adjudicator, when it is established on the basis of the allegations in the sworn complaint or motion, which shall be duly supported by affidavits of merit, that one or more persons are claiming rights adverse to the tiller on the landholding in question or there is a dispute as to the sharing in the net harvest of the landholding.

## RULE XVIII
## DIRECT AND INDIRECT CONTEMPT

**SECTION 1. Direct Contempt.** The Board or any of its Members or Adjudicator may summarily pass judgement on acts of direct contempt committed in the presence of, or so near the Chairman or any Member of the Board or its Adjudicator, as to obstruct or interrupt the proceedings before the same, including disrespect towards the members of the Board or its Adjudicator, offensive behavior towards others, or refusal to be sworn or to answer as a witness, or to subscribe to an affidavit or deposition when lawfully required to do so. If the offense is committed against the Board or any of its Members or its Adjudicator, the same shall be punished by a fine not exceeding Two Hundred Pesos (P200.00), or imprisonment of not exceeding ten (10) days or both.

The judgement of the Board or any of its Members or Adjudicator on direct contempt is immediately executory and not appealable.

**SECTION 2. Indirect Contempt.** The Board or any of its Members or its Adjudicator may also cite and punish any person for indirect contempt on any of the grounds and in the manner prescribed under Rule 71 of the Revised Rules of Court.

**SECTION 3. Appeal from Indirect Contempt.** Any person adjudged guilty of indirect contempt by the Adjudicator, may, within a period of five (5) days from notice of the judgment, appeal the same to the Board, and the execution of said judgment shall be suspended pending the resolution of the appeal upon the filling by the said person of a bond on condition that he will abide by, and perform the judgment should the appeal be decided against him.

## RULE XIX
## PRELIMINARY DETERMINATION OF JUST COMPENSATION

**SECTION 1. Principal Role of Adjudicator.** The principal role of the Adjudicator in the summary administrative proceedings for the preliminary determination of just compensation is to inquire whether the Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP) and the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) in their land valuation computations have complied with the administrative orders and other issuances of the Secretary of the DAR and the LBP.

**SECTION 2. By Whom Conducted.** The preliminary proceedings of land valuation for the purpose of the determination of just compensation for its acquisition shall be conducted:

2.1 by the PARAD when the initial land valuation of the Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP) does not exceed Five Million Pesos (Ph5,000,000.00); and

2.2 by the RARAD when the said valuation exceeds Five Million Pesos (Ph5,000,000.00)

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Chairman of the Adjudication Board, in his discretion, may designate the PARAD to conduct preliminary proceedings of land valuation even in excess of Five (5) Million Pesos, if in his judgment, the RARAD's case load becomes unmanageable and/or too voluminous.

The aforesaid amounts are subject to amendment by the Secretary of the DAR through administrative issuances.

**SECTION 3. Order for Submission of Evidence, Position Papers, and Notice of Hearing.** Upon receipt of the Claim Folder (CF) containing all the pertinent documents, the Adjudicator shall issue an order:

3.1 to the landowner, the LBP, the DAR officials concerned, the farmer-beneficiaries and other interested parties, that they may examine the claim folder in the Adjudicator's possession and to submit evidence, pertinent documents, and their respective position papers and affidavits within thirty (30) days from receipt of the order; and

3.2 notifying said parties of the date set for hearing on the matter.

Thereafter, the Adjudicator shall proceed to make an administrative determination of just compensation following the procedure in ordinary cases.

The Order shall be served in the same manner as the service of summons as provided for in Rule VII hereof.

**SECTION 4. Failure to Comply with Above Order.** If the parties fail to submit the required documents and their position papers and/or to appear on the date set for hearing, despite proper notice, the matter shall be deemed submitted for resolution.

**SECTION 5. Appeal.** A party who disagrees with the resolution of the Adjudicator may bring the matter to the Board by filing with the Adjudicator concerned a Notice of Appeal within fifteen (15) days from receipt of the resolution. The filing of a Motion for Reconsideration of said resolution shall interrupt the period herein fixed. If the motion is denied, the aggrieved party may file the appeal within the remaining period, but in no case shall it be less than five (5) days.

The Adjudicator, upon receipt of the Notice of Appeal, shall transmit said notice and the records of the case to the Board within fifteen (15) days from receipt of such notice.

Upon receipt of the Notice of Appeal and the records of the case transmitted by the Adjudicator, the Board may order the parties to submit their respective memoranda. The petition shall be resolved by the Board within thirty (30) days, as much as possible, from receipt of the memoranda or from the lapse of the period within which to file the same.

At the option of the parties, a draft decision stored or saved in a diskette in a word processing format which is generally acceptable may also be filed with the Board.

In no case shall a writ of execution be issued by the Adjudicator of resolutions or orders timely contested before the Board.

**SECTION 6. When Resolution Deemed Final.** Failure on the part of the aggrieved party to the contest the resolution of the Adjudicator within the aforecited reglementary period provided shall be deemed a concurrence by such party with the land valuation, hence said valuation shall become final and executory.

**SECTION 7. Filing of Original Action with the Special Agrarian Court for Final Determination.** The party who disagrees with the decision of the Board may contest the same by filing an original action with the Special Agrarian Court (SAC) having jurisdiction over the subject property within fifteen (15) days from his receipt of the Board's decision.

Immediately upon filing with the SAC, the party shall file a Notice of Filing of Original Action with the Board, together with a certified true copy of the petition filed with the SAC.

Failure to file a Notice of Filing of Original Action or to submit a certified true copy of the petition shall render the decision of the Board final and executory. Upon receipt of the Notice of Filing of Original Action or certified true copy of the petition filed with the SAC, no writ of execution shall be issued by the Board.

**SECTION 8. Notice of Resolution.** A copy of the resolution of the Board or Adjudicator shall be sent to the landowner, the Land Bank of the Philippines, the potential farmer beneficiaries, other interested parties, and their counsels.

**SECTION 9. Return of Claim Folder.** The Board or Adjudicator shall, within three (3) days from return of the notice of the resolution pursuant to the preceding section, transmit the Claim Folder (CF), together with the complete records thereof to the office of origin or the Regional Agrarian Reform Officer (RARO) concerned, copy furnished the LBP.

**SECTION 10. Execution of Judgments for Just Compensation which have become Final and Executory.** The Sheriff shall enforce a writ of execution of a final judgment for compensation by demanding for the payment of the amount stated in the writ of execution in cash and bonds against the Agrarian Reform Fund in the custody of the LBP in accordance with RA 6657, and the LBP shall pay the same in accordance with the final judgment and the writ of execution within five (5) days from the time the landowner accordingly executes and submits to the LBP the corresponding deed/s of transfer in favor of the government and surrenders the muniments of title to the property in accordance with Section 16 ( c ) of RA 6657.

### RULE XX
### EXECUTION

**SECTION 1. Execution Upon Final Order or Decision.** Execution shall issue upon an order, resolution or decision that finally disposes of the action or proceeding. Such execution shall issue as a matter of course and upon the expiration of the period to appeal therefrom if no appeal has been duly perfected.

The Board or Adjudicator concerned may, upon certification by the proper officer that a resolution, order or decision has been served to the counsel or representative on record and to the party himself, and has become final and executory, and, upon motion or *motu propio*, issue a writ of execution ordering the DAR Sheriff or any DAR officer to enforce the same. In appropriate cases, the Board or any of its Members or its Adjudicator shall deputize and direct the Philippine National Police, Armed Forces of the Philippines or any of their component units or other law enforcement agencies in the enforcement of any final order, resolution or decision.

**SECTION 2. Execution Pending Appeal.** Any motion for execution of the decision of the Adjudicator pending appeal shall be filed before the Board which may grant the same upon meritorious grounds, upon the posting of a sufficient bond in the amount conditioned for the payment of damages which the aggrieved party may suffer, in the event that the final order or decision is reversed on appeal, provided that the bond requirement shall not apply if the movant is a farmer-benefeciary/pauper litigant.

**SECTION 3. Execution When Issued; Exception.** On motion of the prevailing party or *motu propio*, the Board or the Adjudicator shall order execution of an order or decision that has already become final and executory.

Appeal shall not stay the execution of a decision or order except when the ejectment of a tenant farmer, agricultural lessee or tiller, settler, or amortizing owner-cultivator is directed.

When the decision is based on an amicable settlement or compromise agreement, the same shall be immediately executory.

**SECTION 4. Execution by Motion or by Independent Action.** A final and executory judgment may be executed on motion within five (5) years from the date of its entry. After the lapse of such time, and before it is barred by the statute of limitations, a judgment may be enforced by action.

**SECTION 5. Execution, in case of Death of Party.** Where a party dies after the entry of the judgment or order, execution thereon may issue, or one already issued may be enforced in the following manner:

5.1 In case of the death of the judgment obligee, upon application of his executor or administrator, or successor in interest;
5.2 In case of the death of the judgment obligor, against his executor or any administrator or successor in interest;
5.3 In case of the death of the judgment obligor after execution is actually levied upon any of his property, the same may be sold for the satisfaction thereof, in the manner provided for by the Rules of Court and the officer making the sale shall account for any surplus in his hands to the corresponding executors or administrator.

Provided, however, that if the judgment is for payment of rental in arrearages claimed against the tenant-farmer, agricultural lessee or tiller or settler or amortizing owner-cultivator, execution shall be levied upon the produce of the landholding.

**SECTION 6. Issuance, Form, and Contents of a Writ of Execution.** The writ of execution must be issued by the Board or its Adjudicators which granted the motion. It must intelligently refer to such judgment or order attaching a certified copy of the judgment or order to the writ of execution and requiring the sheriff or any proper officer to whom it is directed to enforce the writ according to its terms, upon the party against whom the same is rendered, or upon any other person required thereby, or by law, to obey the same, and such party or person may be punished for contempt, if he disobeys such judgment.

**SECTION 7. Judgment for Specified Acts Vesting Title.** If a judgment directs a party to execute a conveyance of land, or to deliver deeds or other documents, or to perform any other specific act, and the party fails to comply within the time specified, the Board or the Adjudicator may direct the act to be done by some other person appointed by the said Board or Adjudicator at the cost of the disobedient party and the act when so done shall have like effects as if done by such disobedient party.

**SECTION 8. Return of Writ of Execution.** The writ of execution shall be returned to the Board or Adjudicator issuing it immediately after the judgment has been satisfied in part or in full. If the judgment cannot be satisfied in part or in full within thirty (30) days after his receipt of the writ, the officer shall report to the Board or Adjudicator, as the case may be, and state the reason therefore. Such writ shall continue in effect during the period within which the judgment may be enforced by motion. The officer shall make a report every thirty (30) days on the proceedings taken thereon until the judgment is satisfied in full, or its effectivity expires. The return or periodic reports shall set forth the whole proceedings taken, and shall be filed with the Board Secretariat or Clerk of the Adjudicator, as the case may be, to be preserved with the other papers in the case. A certified copy of the record of an execution in the execution book kept by the Board Secretariat or Clerk or of the officer's return thereon, shall be evidence of the contents of the originals whenever they, or any party thereof, have been lost or destroyed.

**SECTION 9. Property Exempt from Execution.** Except as otherwise expressly provided by law, the following properties, and no other, shall be exempt from execution:

9.1 the judgment obligor's family home as provided by law or, the homestead, in which he resides, and land necessarily used in connection therewith, unless the family home or homestead is the subject matter of the dispute;
9.2 tools and implements necessarily used by him in his trade or employment;
9.3 beasts of burden necessarily used by him in his ordinary occupation;
9.4 his necessary clothing and articles for ordinary personal use, excluding jewelry;
9.5 household furniture and utensils necessary for housekeeping, and used for that purpose by the judgment obligor and his family, such as the judgment obligor may select, of a value not exceeding One Hundred Thousand Pesos (Ph100,000.00);
9.6 provisions for individual or family use sufficient for four months;
9.7 the professional libraries of attorneys, judges, physicians, pharmacists, dentists, engineers, surveyors, clergymen, teachers, and other professionals, not exceeding Three Hundred Thousand Pesos (Ph300,000.00) in value;
9.8 one (1) fishing boat and accessories not exceeding the total value of One Hundred Thousand Pesos (Ph100,000.00), owned by any fishermen by the lawful use of which he earns a livelihood;
9.9 so much of the earnings of the judgment obligor for his personal services within the four (4) months preceding the levy as are necessary for the support of his family;
9.10 lettered gravestones;
9.11 all moneys, benefits, privileges, or annuities accruing or in any manner growing out of any life insurance;
9.12 the right to receive legal support, or money or property obtained as such support, or any pension or gratuity from the government; and
9.13 properties especially exempt by law.

But no article or species of property mentioned in this section shall exempt from execution issued upon a judgment involving said property, upon judgment recovered for its price or upon a judgment of foreclosure of a mortgage thereon.

**SECTION 10. How Execution for the Delivery or Restitution of Property Enforced.** The officer must enforce an execution for the delivery or restitution of property by ousting therefrom the person against whom the judgment is rendered and placing the judgment obligee in possession of such property, and by levying upon so much of the property of the judgment obligor as will satisfy the amount of the judgment and costs included in the writ of execution.

**SECTION 11. Removal of Improvements on Property Subject of Execution.** When the property subject of the execution contains improvements constructed or planted by the judgment obligor or his agent , the officer shall not destroy, demolish or remove said improvements except upon order of the Board or the Adjudicator issued upon petition of the judgment obligee after due hearing and after the former has failed to remove the same within the time fixed by the Board or Adjudicator.

**SECTION 12. Effect of Judgement or Final Order.** The effect of a judgment or final order rendered by the Board or Adjudicator having jurisdiction to pronounce the judgment or order, may be as follows:

12.1 In case of judgment or order against a specific thing or property, the judgment or order is conclusive upon the title or right to the thing or property;
12.2 In other cases, the judgment or order is, with respect to the matter directly adjudged or as to any other matter that could have been raised in relation thereto, conclusive between the parties and their successors in interest by title subsequent to the commencement of the action, litigating for the same thing and under the same title and in the same capacity; and
12.3 In any other litigation between the same parties or their successors in interest, that only is deemed to have been adjudged in a former judgment which appears upon its face to have been so adjudged, or which was actually and necessarily included therein or necessary thereto.

### RULE XXI
### BOARD REGULATIONS

**SECTION 1. Internal Business.** The members of the Board, sitting *en banc*, shall make appropriate orders or rules to govern the assignment of cases among its Members, and other matters relating to the business of the Board.

Such Orders or Rules, as may be so adopted by the Board, shall continue in force until repealed, amended or modified altered by it.

**SECTION 2. Assignment of Cases.** All cases brought to or filed with the Board shall be raffled among the Members thereof for hearing and/or decision, in accordance with the orders and/or internal rules that the Board may adopt.

All motions, pleadings and other matters filed after the case has already been assigned to a Member of the Board, shall immediately be referred to the said Member for appropriate action thereon and consolidation with the records file thereof.

**SECTION 3. En Banc Meeting.** The Board shall sit *en banc* in the performance of its policy and rule making power and in the exercise of its administrative and adjudicatory functions.

A majority of the actual Members of the Board shall constitute a quorum for its sessions *en banc*.

The affirmative votes of the majority of the Members shall be necessary to promulgate policies and rules of the Board.

**SECTION 4. Presiding Officer.** The Secretary of the Department of Agrarian Reform, or in his absence, the designated Member of the Board, shall act as the Chairman and shall preside over its deliberations.

**SECTION 5. Hearing and Pronouncement of a Decision/Resolution/ Final Order.** The participation of the Members of the Board in the deliberation, and the concurrence and signature of a majority of its Members, shall be required for the pronouncement of a decision/resolution/final order determining the merits of a case on appeal before it.

However, the concurrence of only two (2) members shall be necessary in the issuance of interlocutory orders.

### RULE XXII
### THE BOARD SECRETARIAT

**SECTION 1. The Board Secretariat.** There shall be Board Secretariat, which shall be headed by the Executive Director who shall, among others, serve and function as the Clerk of the Board.

**SECTION 2. Filing of Pleadings and Documents.** Pleadings, documents, and all other matters brought to the Board shall be filed with the Secretariat, which shall keep a complete file thereof and be responsible therefor.

In cases where the matter, question or controversy brought before the Board is raffled to a Member thereof, the original records shall be referred to such member, with a complete copy of the records kept on file with the Secretariat. Thereafter, all pleadings, documents and papers related thereto shall be filed with the Secretariat, which shall forward the same to the Member concerned, with copies furnished the Secretariat.

**SECTION 3. Custody of the Seal and Books of the Board.** The Secretariat shall have custody of the seal of the Board together with all the records of all the proceedings of the Board including the exhibits, documentary evidence, case folders and the files of the same.

**SECTION 4. Access to the Board Records.** All official records of the Board shall be open to the public during normal office hours subject to the payment of the required fees except those that that are classified as confidential which cannot be divulged without violating the rights of the parties concerned or prejudicing public interest.

**SECTION 5. Calendar, General Docket, and other Books of the Board.** The Secretariat shall prepare a calendar and entry of the proceedings of the Board in a Minute Book. The designated officer of the Secretariat shall take charge of the service of the orders, decisions, subpoenas, and other processes issued by the Board and certify and date and hour of promulgation of any order as well as the names of all parties who were notified thereof.

The Secretariat shall keep a general docket for the said Board, duly numbered and containing entries of all the original and appealed cases before it.

The secretariat shall keep a compilation of copies of all resolutions, orders and other decisions issued upon by the Board in the order of their dates of promulgation.

**SECTION 6. Releasing of Communications, Issuances, and Other matters.** All communications and/or issuances pertaining to the Board and other matters before the Board shall be released only thru the Secretariat which shall keep a record and/or file a copy thereof and be responsible therefor.

**SECTION 7. Issuance of Certified True Copies.** Upon proper written request, the Secretariat shall issue to any party a certified true copy, under the seal of the Board, of any document, record, resolution, order, or decision, or entry under its custody subject to the payment of the required fees and limitations imposed in Section 4 hereof.

### RULE XXIII
### OTHER FEES, CHARGES AND COSTS

**SECTION 1. Payment of Fees.** Upon filing of the pleading or other application which initiates an action or proceeding, the fees prescribed therefore shall be paid in full.

**SECTION 2. Filing Fees.** A filing fee of Seven Hundred Fifty (P750.00) Pesos plus a legal research fee of Twenty Pesos (Ph20.00) shall be charged for any petition or complaint filed with the Adjudicator or the Board, as an original action.

The pauper litigant as stated in Section 2 of the Rule V of these Rules is exempt from the payment of the herein filing fees.

**SECTION 3. Legal Fees.** The following legal fees shall be charged and collected:

3.1 For furnishing certified transcript of the records or additional copies of any record, decision, ruling or entry of which any party is entitled to demand and receive a copy, Seven (P7.00) Pesos per page;
3.2 For every certificate not on process, Ten (P10.00) Pesos per page;
3.3 For every search of any record of more than one year outstanding and reading the same, Fifteen (P15.00) Pesos.

**SECTION 4. Where Fees to be Paid.** The fees herein shall be paid by the party concerned to the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) Cashier or its counterpart offices at the time of filing or request. If the fees are not paid, the Board or Adjudicator may refuse to take action thereon until they are paid except as otherwise provided herein. For this purpose, the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) Cashier or its counterpart offices shall segregate all fees collected from its general fund and shall also maintain a separate Book of Account, for all transactions covered hereunder.

**SECTION 5. Sheriffs, and Other Persons Serving Processes.**

5.1 For serving summons and copy of complaint, Thirty Pesos (Ph30.00) for each defendant;
5.2 For serving subpoenas, Twenty–Four Pesos (Ph24.00) for each witness to be served;
5.3 For serving a temporary restraining order, or writ of injunction, preliminary or final, Sixty Pesos (PhP60.00);
5.4 For filing bonds or other instruments of indemnity or security in provisional remedies, Twenty Four Pesos (Ph24.00) for each bond or instrument;
5.5 For executing a writ or process to place a party in possession of a real estate. One Hundred Twenty Pesos (Ph120.00);
5.6 For advertising sale, excluding the cost of publication, Sixty Pesos (Ph60.00);
5.7 For taking inventory of goods levied upon when the inventory is ordered by the Board or its Adjudicator, One Hundred Twenty Pesos (Ph120.00) per day of actual inventory work;
5.8 For levying on execution personal or real property, Sixty Pesos (Ph60.00);
5.9 For money collected by him by order, execution, attachment, or any other process, the following sums, to wit:
    5.9.1 On the first Four Thousand Pesos (Ph4,000.00), four per centum (4%); and
    5.9.2 On all sums in excess of Four Thousand Pesos (Ph4,000.00), two per centum (2%)

In addition to the fees herein above fixed, the party requesting for the issuance of any process whether preliminary, incidental, or final, shall pay the sheriff's expenses in serving or executing the process, or safeguarding the property levied upon, attached or seized, including actual travel expenses by the regular means of transportation, guards' fees, warehousing and similar charges, in an amount estimated by the Sheriff, subject to the approval of the Board or Adjudicator. Upon approval of said estimated expenses, the interested party shall deposit such amount with the Clerk-of-the-Board and ex-officio Sheriff, who shall disburse the same to the Sheriff assigned to effect the process. Any unspent amount shall be refunded to the party making the deposit. A full report shall be submitted by the Sheriff assigned with his return and the Sheriff's expenses shall be taxed as cost against the losing party.

**SECTION 6. Stenographers.** Stenographers shall give certified transcripts of notes takenby them to any party requesting for the same upon payment of Seven Pesos (Ph7.00) for each page of not less than two hundred fifty (250) words.

**SECTION 7. Witness Fees.** Witnesses in any action in the Board or Adjudicator shall be entitled to thirty-five Pesos (Ph35.00) per day and actual travel expenses by the regular means of transportation.

A witness shall be allowed such compensation for his attendance in more than one case or more than one side of the same case at the same time, but may elect in which of the several cases or on which side of the case, if the witness is summoned by both sides, to claim his attendance. A person who is compelled by the board to attend its hearings shall be paid as a witness.

**SECTION 8. Costs.** Cost may be allowed to the prevailing party but the Board or the Adjudicator, as the case may be, shall have the power, for special reasons, to adjudge that either party shall pay the cost of an action, or that the same be divided as may be equitable. No costs shall be allowed against the Republic of the Philippines unless otherwise provided by law.

**SECTION 9. Cost in Actions or Proceedings.** In any action or proceedings before the Board or Adjudicator, the prevailing party may recover the following costs:

9.1 For his own attendance and that of his attorney, down to and including final judgment, One Hundred Twenty Pesos (Ph120.00);
9.2 All lawful fees charged against him by the Board or Adjudicator, in entering and docketing the action and recording the proceedings and judgment therein and for the issuance of all proceedings;
9.3 If testimony is received by the Board or Adjudicator not taken from another tribunal or a court of justice and transmitted thereto, the prevailing party shall be allowed the same cost for witness fees, dispositions, processes and service thereof; and
9.4 The legal fees of the Board or Adjudicator in an action may also be adjudged against the defeated party, or apportioned as justice requires.

**SECTION 10. Dismissal of Action or Appeal.** If an action or an appeal is dismissed for want of jurisdiction or otherwise, the Board or Adjudicator, nevertheless, shall have the power to render judgment for costs, as justice may require.

**SECTION 11. Attorney's Fees as Costs.** Attorney's Fees may be charged as coast against the adverse party in accordance with Article 2208 of the New Civil Code.

**SECTION 12. Cost When Witness Fails to Appear.** If a witness fails to appear at the time and place specified in the subpoena issued by the Board or the Adjudicator, the costs for the arrest of the witness shall be paid by the witness if the Board or Adjudicator shall determine that his failure to answer the subpoena was willful and/or without just excuse.

**SECTION 13. Government Is Exempt.** The Republic of the Philippines, its national agencies and instrumentalities, are exempt from paying the legal fees provided in this rule. Local governments and government-owned or controlled corporations, with or without independent charters, are not exempt from paying such fees.

### RULE XXIV
### MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

**SECTION 1. Transitory Provisions.** These rules shall govern all cases filed on or after its effectivity. All cases pending with the Board and the Adjudicators, prior to the date of effectivity of these Rules, shall be governed by the DARAB Rules prevailing at the time of their filing.

**SECTION 2. Separability of Provisions.** If, for any reason, any portion or provisions of these Rules is declared unconstitutional or invalid by the Supreme Court, no other provisions of these Rules shall be affected thereby.

**SECTION 3. Repealing Clause.** The Revised DARAB Rules of 1994 and all DAR Administrative Orders, Circulars and DAR Adjudication Board Resolutions promulgated and issued prior to the effectivity of these Rules, that are inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed and/or modified accordingly.

**SECTION 4. Effectivity.** These Rules shall take effect fifteen (15) days from their publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Done and adopted on this 17 January, 2003 at Diliman, Quezon City, Metro Manila, Philippines.

**THE DAR ADJUDICATION BOARD:**

**HERNANI A. BRAGANZA**
Secretary
Chairman

Efren Moncupa

**VIRGILIO R. DELOS REYES**
Undersecretary
Vice-Chairman

**EFREN C. MONCUPA**
Undersecretary
Member

**LORENZO R. REYES**
Assistant Secretary
Member

**AUGUSTO P. QUIJANO**
Assistant Secretary
Member

**IANELA G. JUSI-BARRANTES**
Assistant Secretary
Member

**ROEL ERIC C. GARCIA**
Assistant Secretary
Member

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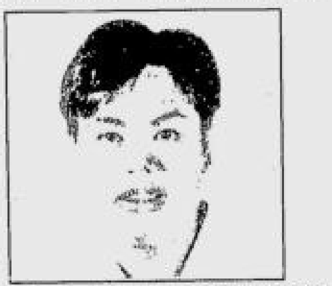

This is to inform the public that **BERNARDO PABLICO** whose picture appears above is no longer connected with **JOSOL HOME DECOR IMPROVEMENT CENTER, Inc.** Our Company shall no longer honor any transaction entered into by mentioned individual effective immediately.

(PDI - Jan. 24, 2003)

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS
NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
BIR Road, East Triangle, Diliman, Quezon City

## INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The **NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION (NTC)** is inviting interested and legitimate suppliers to apply for eligibility and to submit bid proposals for the suppy of **Utility Vehicles** for the Commission.

Registration requirements could be secured from **Ms. Sophia Lynn B. Lumantod,** Head, NTC BAC Secretariat, NTC Bldg., BIR Road, East Avenue, Quezon City, beginning **27 January 2003** to be submitted not later than **18 February 2003,** 5:00 P.M. through the BAC Secretariat.

Notification of registered suppliers and issuance of bid documents to registered suppliers shall be from **February 24 to 25, 2003** upon payment of non-refundable fee of One (1) Thousand Pesos (P1,000.00) through the BAC Secretariat.

Pre-bid Conference will be on **March 3, 2003 at 2:00 P.M.** at NTC Office, NTC Bldg., BIR Rd., East Avenue, Quezon City.

Deadline for submission and opening of the bids will be on **March 14, 2003 at 2:00 P.M. and 14 March 2003 at 2:15 P.M.,** respectively. Bidders shall submit bids in two (2) separate sealed bid envelopes; the first envelope containing the technical component of the bid, and the second containing the financial component of the bid. All communications must be addressed to the undersigned in the above-specified address.

Prospective bidders shall signify conformance to bidding terms and conditions as required and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution in accordance with **"Executive Order 40."**

The NTC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any defect or informality of the bid proposals received and to accept and award the bid to the bidder whose proposal is considered most advantageous to the Government. The NTC assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify any bidder for expenses or loss that it may incur in the preparation/process of the bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

**EDGARDO V. CABARIOS**
Chairman, BAC

(PDI – Jan. 24 & 31, 2003)

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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS
NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
BIR Road, East Triangle, Diliman, Quezon City

## INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The **NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION (NTC)** is inviting interested and legitimate suppliers to apply for eligibility and to submit bid proposals for the supply of **Radio Monitoring Test Equipment for National Capital Region (NCR) and Cordillera Autonomous Region (CAR)** of the Commission.

Registration requirements could be secured from **Ms. Sophia Lynn B. Lumantod,** Head, NTC BAC Secretariat, NTC Bldg., BIR Road, East Avenue, Quezon City, beginning **27 January 2003** to be submitted not later than **12 February 2003,** 5:00 P.M. through the BAC Secretariat.

Notification of registered suppliers and issuance of bid documents to registered suppliers shall be from **February 17 to 18, 2003** upon payment of non-refundable fee of One (1) Thousand Pesos (P1,000.00) through the BAC Secretariat.

Pre-bid Conference will be on **February 21, 2003 at 2:00 P.M.** at NTC Office, NTC Bldg., BIR Rd., East Avenue, Quezon City.

Deadline for submission and opening of the bids will be on **March 4, 2003 at 2:00 P.M. and 4 March 2003 at 2:15 P.M.,** respectively. Bidders shall submit bids in two (2) separate sealed bid envelopes; the first envelope containing the technical component of the bid, and the second containing the financial component of the bid. All communications must be addressed to the undersigned in the above-specified address.

Prospective bidders shall signify conformance to bidding terms and conditions as required and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution in accordance with **"Executive Order 40."**

The NTC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any defect or informality of the bid proposals received and to accept and award the bid to the bidder whose proposal is considered most advantageous to the Government. The NTC assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify any bidder for expenses or loss that it may incur in the preparation/process of the bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

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Chairman, BAC

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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS
NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
BIR Road, East Triangle, Diliman, Quezon City

## INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The **NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION (NTC)** is inviting interested and legitimate suppliers to apply for eligibility and to submit bid proposals for the supply of **Records Management System** for the Commission.

Registration requirements could be secured from **Ms. Sophia Lynn B. Lumantod,** Head, NTC BAC Secretariat, NTC Bldg., BIR Road, East Avenue, Quezon City, beginning **27 January 2003** to be submitted not later than **25 February 2003, 5:00 p.m.** through the BAC Secretariat.

Notification of registered suppliers and issuance of bid documents to registered suppliers shall be from **March 7 to 8, 2003** upon payment of non-refundable fee of One (1) Thousand Pesos (P1,000.00) through the BAC Secretariat.

Pre-bid Conference will be on **March 12, 2003 at 2:00 p.m.** at NTC Office, NTC Bldg., BIR Rd., East Avenue, Quezon City.

Deadline for submission and opening of the bids will be on **March 17, 2003 at 2:00 p.m.** and **17 March 2003 at 2:15 p.m.,** respectively. Bidders shall submit bids in two (2) separate sealed bid envelopes; the first envelope containing the technical component of the bid, and the second containing the financial component of the bid. All communications must be addressed to the undersigned in the above-specified address.

Prospective bidders shall signify conformance to bidding terms and conditions as required and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution in accordance with **"Executive Order 40"**.

The NTC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any defect or informality of the bid proposals received and to accept and award the bid to the bidder whose proposal is considered most advantageous to the Government. The NTC assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify any bidder for expenses or loss that it may incur in the preparation/process of the bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

**EDGARDO V. CABARIOS**
*Chairman, BAC*

(PDI--Jan. 24 & 31, 2003)

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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS
NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
BIR Road, East Triangle, Diliman, Quezon City

## INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The **NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION (NTC)** is inviting interested and legitimate suppliers to apply for eligibility and to submit bid proposals for the supply of **Janitorial and Security Services** for the Commission.

Registration requirements could be secured from **Ms. Sophia Lynn B. Lumantod,** Head, NTC BAC Secretariat, NTC Bldg., BIR Road, East Avenue, Quezon City, beginning **27 January 2003** to be submitted not later than **7 February 2003, 5:00 P.M.** through the BAC Secretariat.

Notification of registered suppliers and issuance of bid documents to registered suppliers shall be from **February 11 to 12, 2003** upon payment of non-refundable fee of One (1) Thousand Pesos (P1,000.00) through the BAC Secretariat.

Pre-bid Conference will be on **February 17, 2003 at 2:00 P.M.** at NTC Office, NTC Bldg., BIR Rd., East Avenue, Quezon City.

Deadline for submission and opening of the bids will be on **February 28, 2003 at 2:00 P.M.** and **28 February 2003 at 2:15 P.M.,** respectively. Bidders shall submit bids in two (2) separate sealed bid envelopes; the first envelope containing the technical component of the bid, and the second containing the financial component of the bid. All communications must be addressed to the undersigned in the above-specified address.

Prospective bidders shall signify conformance to bidding terms and conditions as required and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution in accordance with "Executive Order 40".

The NTC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any defect or informality of the bid proposals received and to accept and award the bid to the bidder whose proposal is considered most advantageous to the Government. The NTC assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify any bidder for expenses or loss that it may incur in the preparation/process of the bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

**EDGARDO V. CABARIOS**
*Chairman, BAC*

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# OBITUARIES

## *Carmen Davenport Barraca vda. de Ang*

**October 03, 1923 - January 13, 2003**

With profound sorrow and pain, we announce her demise on January 13, 2003 after a brief bout with cancer. Her remains will be viewed at the Iglesia ni Cristo Los Angeles Chapel on January 17 and 20, then flown to Manila, arriving on January 23. The wake will be at La Funeraria Paz, Araneta Ave., Quezon City and interment will be in the morning of January 26 at Eternal Gardens, Novaliches, Quezon City.

She leaves behind her grieving children: Fernando, Josefina, Erlinda (Ang Chua), Jun, Teresita (Ang See), Carmelita (Ang Tan), Virgilio, Richard (deceased), Jocelyn, Marilyn (Ang dela Rosa), Carmen (Ang Jimenez); daughters-in-law Nene, Nia, Elsa, Khay; sons-in-law Manuel, Chinben (deceased), Johnny, Anchet, Homer; 21 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren.

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## FELICITAS "CHIQUI" A. BROOKS

*Peacefully joined our Lord on January 23, 2003 at the age of 58.*

Her husband JOHN; children JAY & AILEEN, MELANIE, MARK, ANA, TRISHA & GUIDO, DYAN, MICHAEL; grandchildren Manuel, Johnny, Kirsten & Lilian; mother Milagros; brother, sisters and relatives request pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Christ the King Church, Greenmeadows, Quezon City.

Interment will be announced later.

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### ERRATUM

## DR. JESUS B. LAVA

will lie in state at the Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe until Friday night, January 24, 2003 not January 25, 2003 as previously announced Cremation will be after the 7:00 a.m. Mass on Saturday, January 25, 2003 not January 26, 2003 Interment will be on Sunday, January 26, 2003 not January 27, 2003 after the 2:00 p.m. Mass at the Bulacan Catholic Cemetery

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"Eye has not seen, ear has not heard, nor has it much as dawned on man what God has prepared for those who love Him."

I Corinthians 2:9

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# OBITUARIES

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*" Never again will the sun set on you,*
*for the Lord shall be your light forever. "*

# JOSE "JOE" M. ESTEBAN, JR.

**FIRST DEATH ANNIVERSARY - January 25, 2003**

Relatives and friends are invited to join his family in the Eucharistic Sacrifice
to be offered at 4:00 pm on Saturday, the 25th of January 2003 at the
*Sancta Maria, Stella Orientis* Oratory, University of Asia & the Pacific
St. Josemaria Escriva Drive, Ortigas Center, Pasig City

*Thank you so much for including our beloved* **PAPA** *in your prayers.*

*wife* **MENCHU**
*children & grandchildren* **CHIM** & Mabel, *Celina, Joey & Miggy;*
**ROLY** & Alen, *JP, Jonathan & Raya;* RJ & Liv, *Anton, Rafa & Javi*

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BASILICA MINORE OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
(Manila Cathedral) Intramuros, Manila

BASILICA MINORE OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST
(Shrine of the Black Nazarene) Manila

SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES
Amoranto (formerly Retiro) St., Q.C.

SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF THE MOST HOLY ROSARY
(Santo Domingo Church), Q.C.

SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF MT. CARMEL
Broadway St., New Manila, Q.C.

JESUS, LORD OF DIVINE MERCY
Mapayapa Village I, Capitol Hills, Q.C.

ST. FRANCIS CHURCH
Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong City

SAN ANTONIO DE PADUA PARISH
Singalong, Manila

STS. PETER AND JOHN
Potrero, City of Malabon

CATHEDRAL OF VIGAN
Vigan City, Ilocos Sur

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Sta. Maria , Ilocos Sur

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Cervantes, Ilocos Sur

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ST. LOUIS CATHEDRAL
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SAN PABLO SEMINARY
Crystal Road, Baguio City

ST. JOSEPH CHURCH
Pacdal Road, Baguio City

OUR LADY OF LOURDES PARISH
Kisad Road, Baguio City

STA. CATALINA CONVENT
Marcos Hi-way, Baguio City

SAN PEDRO CATHEDRAL
Davao City

ASSUMPTION CHURCH
F. Torres, Davao City

ST. PAUL CHURCH
Juna, Davao City

HOLY TRINITY PARISH
North Vancouver, Canada

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*God saw you getting tired.*
*When a cure was not to be,*
*So He wrapped His arms around you,*
*And whispered, "Come to Me".*
*You didn't deserve what you went through,*
*So He gave you rest.*

# CONRADO FINEZA OCHOA

*Died on January 22, 2003 at the age of 83.*

His loving wife **ROSA**; children **RICKY & LYDIA OCHOA, CAROL & RAMON RAMIREZ, NENE & RONALD VELUZ, YOLY & SONNY ZAPANTA, GIRLIE & GENJU LAPEZ, JOJO & DETH OCHOA, JING & RAUL PAGDANGANAN**; grandchildren, nephews, nieces, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Sanctuario De San Jose, Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila.

Interment will be on Saturday, January 25, 2003 at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina after the 8:00 a.m. Mass.

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*An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.*

**OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:**
- Copy of Death Certificate
- Any identification document (I.D.)

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# COL. (RET.) ARTURO F. LARA, PROF.

*Passed away in the Grace of our Lord*
*on December 19, 2002, in Austin, Texas*

His loving wife **Nena**; children **Larry & Jessica, Eugene & Ruth, Bobby & Cathy**, and **Ric & Jessica**; grandchildren **Kyle, Sean, Nathan, Eryn, Francis & Jared**; sisters **Alma** and **Rosa** (†), brothers **Manuel** (†) and **Ricardo**; relatives & friends request the readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

A Mass will be held on January 27, 2003, 6:30 p.m. at the Mt. Carmel Shrine Parish, Doña Juana Rodriguez Avenue, New Manila, Quezon City. Interment will immediately follow at the Mt. Carmel Crypt.

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*"life is not measured by how much one owns."*
*Luke 12:15*

Our Dearest Itay

# SANTIAGO MOJICA ROLLE

**of Alfonso and Indang, Cavite**

**President Emeritus, Cavite State University**
(Formerly Don Severino Agricultural College)

*Peacefully joined his Creator*
*on January 22, 2003 at the age of 91.*

His loving wife **Aurora**;
children **Bienvenido** (†) and **Thelma**,
**Minrado** and **Narcely**, and **Josefina**;
grandchildren **Albert, Melissa, Raymund,**
**Carlo** and **Carol**;
and sisters **Senen R. Credo** (†) and **Genoveva R. Fajardo**
request the pious readers
to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at his residence
at Km. 71, Indang-Mendez Road,
Mahabang Kahoy, Indang, Cavite.

Interment will be at the Jardin Royale, Indang, Cavite
on Tuesday, January 28, 2003
after the 2:00 p.m. Mass at St. Gregory Parish Church.

E-mail: pr_business@inquirer.com.ph

# BUSINESS

## Star, HBO crack down on cable TV piracy

**By Abigail L. Ho**

TWO of the world's biggest cable content providers—HBO and Star Group Ltd.—are cracking down on cable television operators pirating their signals.

Philippine Cable Television Association president J. Manuel Dabao told the INQUIRER that officials of the two companies agreed in a recent meeting to withdraw their channels from the lineup of cable TV operators found airing programs without paying for them..

These two cable content providers air the most popular channels available on cable, including movie channels Home Box Office and Star Movies, sports channels ESPN and Star Sports, and National Geographic.

Dabao said piracy had become so widespread that cable content providers had decided on taking drastic actions to contain it.

Cable television companies are currently getting away with "stealing" some channels, he said.

The National Telecommunications Commission and Intellectual Property Office—agencies responsible for protecting intellectual property rights—have been passing to one another the responsibility of preventing cable TV piracy, he said.

Cable program providers and operators have been so frustrated with the government's inaction that they have decided to do some "police work" themselves, Dabao said.

"With (the) new policy, operators doing something illegal will be forced to turn legitimate. But we're also ready for those operators who will decide to just pirate everything just to be able to continue their businesses," he said.

He said cable TV operators that would continue to air pirated programs would be referred to the proper government agency for appropriate sanctions.

"This will also prove how efficient .our government agencies, like the NTC, are," he said.

The PCTA has been meeting with program providers to come up with ways to prevent unscrupulous cable TV operators from airing channels without paying for them.

## BIR to lift jet fuel perk

THE DEPARTMENT of Finance has ordered the Bureau of Internal Revenue to draft a regulation that will lift a privilege that allows airlines to import jet fuel tax-free.

The government is hoping to earn some P1 billion by lifting this incentive.

The Department of Energy has certified that the country already has enough aviation fuel, Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said.

Airlines must pay an excise tax of P3.67 per liter of jet fuel they consume locally but are exempt from paying taxes and duties on fuel that they use to service international routes.

BIR Commissioner Guillermo Parayno said the bureau will have to study the lifting of the exemption in relation to the charter of Philippine Airlines Inc. *Clarissa S. Batino*

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## Napocor auction on industrial risk policy fails

**By Ronnel W. Domingo**

AN AUCTION for the reinsurance of the National Power Corp.'s industrial all-risk policy covering assets worth about $6 billion has failed, company president Rogelio Murga disclosed yesterday.

"We declared a failure of bidding last Monday, as not one company qualified for it," Murga said in a news briefing.

He said pre-qualification for the next bidding started on Tuesday.

"Those who would qualify would be required to submit their bids on Monday," Murga added.

He declined to explain why not one firm qualified or how many were interested.

The policy covers Napocor's fixed assets, including power plants, substations and undersea transmission cables.

The last time the policy was about to expire, the reinsurance of the assets hit snags as Napocor and the Government Service Insurance System fought on who had the authority to oversee the auctions for the contract.

Napocor, under then president Jesus Alcordo, wanted an active role in the auction for the contract, but the GSIS insisted it had the sole authority to do this.

A bidding held in September 2001 failed, as not a single insurance brokerage submitted a bid.

## RP, World Bank approve $50-M agrarian loan

**By Doris C. Dumlao**

THE WORLD Bank and the Philippine government signed yesterday a $50-million loan agreement for the country's Second Agrarian Reform Communities Development Project II (ARCDP II).

In a statement, the World Bank said the project would benefit 80 more agrarian reform communities, including 70,000 farm households in six new provinces.

The areas covered are Zamboanga del Norte, Masbate, Mindoro Occidental, Negros Oriental, Bataan, Zambales, and parts of Misamis Occidental, Quezon II, Isabela and Davao del Norte that already benefited from ARCDP I.

"This community-driven development is an essential approach to improving the quality of life in the rural areas where most of the poor live," World Bank country director Robert Vance Pulley said.

## Napocor chief says rehiring plan on track

THE NATIONAL Power Corp. has plenty of time to rehire employees under its latest reorganization, as the deadline has been set for Feb. 28, according to its new president.

In a news briefing yesterday, Napocor chief Rogelio Murga said the company's board would determine today what positions would be left out in the restructuring.

Napocor has about 5,600 employees, of which 3,800 will remain after February.

"There are about 3,750 positions to be identified" as appointments for Napocor's vice presidents have been confirmed, Murga said.

He said the remaining jobs would be announced on Monday so that current employees could start filing their applications.

Last week, Napocor Employees Consolidated Union president Abner Eleria said that Napocor's management was running out of time in the rehiring process.

Earlier reports said the process should be completed by Jan. 31. *Ronnel W. Domingo*

For feedback, text us at (0919)880-33-54 or email us at pr_lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph
LIFESTYLE
Home
Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

# Taxes, quality of life and quality of gym

TAXES and death being the only two sure things in life, add tax evasion.

The country being hard-up, mismanaged or both, we knew it was only a matter of time before VAT caught up with professionals and other self-driven, talented, resourceful members of the populace.

**LIFE-STYLED**

*Thelma Sioson San Juan*

Of course, we know that it isn't easy to part with hard-earned money, especially if it's destined to land in the government coffers that are like black holes. That's why income underdeclaration has become a highly evolved Pinoy art. It's necessary for one's health, if not survival.

We can't say categorically that we fully agree with the protesting artists and professionals, but I think we'll be sharing the sentiments of many when we wail—what about

TAXES/ C2

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## GARDEN-REVIEW

# First book on RP cut foliage released

**Ornamental Plants In The Philippines - Cut Foliage**
*Benito Vergara and Tito Rimando*
*70 pages*

**By Tita Giron**

AT LONG last, a book on cut foliage plants! "Ornamental Plants In The Philippines-Cut Foliage" was launched recently and is now in the market. The first of its kind in the country, the book discusses different kinds of local plants and trees that can be grown to develop a cut foliage industry.

Long overlooked by local gardeners, the plants provide the various materials that florists use in their flower arrangements. Florists use leaves, twigs, berries, fruits and roots as special accents in their arrangements, as well as to fill up empty space and cover unsightly spots.

Unknown to many gardeners, many popular plants other than the traditional ferns and palmeras can provide foliage for flower arrangements. The book identifies non-traditional cut foliage like aglaonema hybrids, ornamental pineapple or bromeliads, rattlesnake plant, baby kiss, *puso-puso*, Spanish moss, and many more.

The fact that the book was written by plant scientists is an assurance that information about the cut foliage plants (sometimes called florist greens) is authoritative and reliable. Garden writers, for that matter, cannot go wrong if they consult the book for correct names of plants. In addition to botanical names, the authors put the popular and traditional names of the plants.

Vergara, a national scientist, is a member of scientific institutions like the National Academy of Science and Technology (NAST), and the National Ornamental and Medicinal Plants Research and Development Team. Rimando is a horticulture professor at the University of the Philippines in Los Baños.

### Some omissions

A total of 62 cut foliage plants are described in the book, but the authors failed to include new cut foliage materials now offered at the fresh cut flower market in Dangwa. The Federation of Ornamental and Cut Flower Growers of the Philippines also bared new cut foliage plant materials at its recent national convention in Bacolod City. Perhaps a second edition can be expected soon.

Nonetheless, the book is a valuable reference material for researchers, landscapers, and enterprising gardeners. Each plant is described with a template of information that includes scientific name, common name, plant descriptions including color, outstanding characteristic, design application, availability, standard size and vase life.

**A POTENTIAL** cut foliage plant, the Aglaonema Miriam has beautiful leaves.

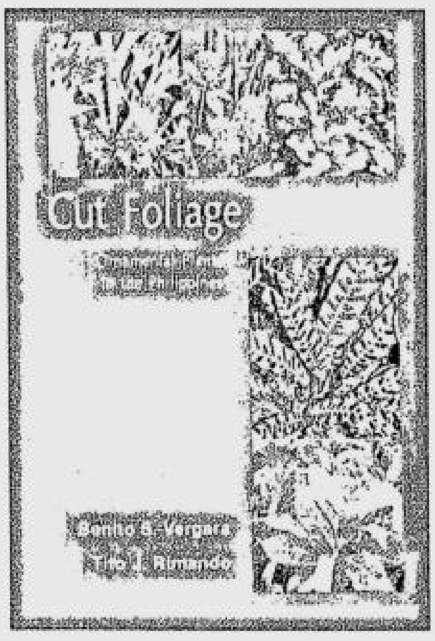
Cut foliage plants provide the various materials that florists use in their flower arrangements

The book has also something for garden hobbyists. Basic growing techniques are presented as well as detailed tips on how to harvest and store the materials. Here, for example, are some of the generous post-harvest tips shared by the authors:

- Re-cut the (harvested) stems with a clean sharp knife before placing them in water or holding solution.
- Add a drop of laundry bleach to the water in the container to slow down the multiplication of bacteria. Flower preservatives containing biocide can help extend vase life, but preservatives without sugar are preferred. Adding sugar (a common practice) is of no use and, when present in high quantity, may even accelerate leaf senescence (aging).
- Place harvested foliage immediately in water.
- Whenever possible, the foliage should be frequently misted or packed in moisture-proof containers during transport.

### Export potential

In the book, the authors also discussed the potential of cut foliage for export. "There is a great potential in developing the cut foliage industry since we can grow almost any foliage (plant) the whole year round, including temperate foliage in our highland areas," they pointed out.



They added that only a few companies were currently into export. "The potential market is there, especially for new cut foliage," as they offered tips and cited various requirements imposed by importing countries.

"Ornamental Plants in the Philippines-Cut Foliage," though the first to focus on cut foliage plants, is actually the fifth in a series of books on local garden plants. Its publication was a collaborative effort of the NAST, Philippine Council for Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resources Research and Development (PCARRD), and Philippine Agriculture and Resources Research Foundation Inc. (PARRFI).

NAST president Dr. Perla Santos-Ocampo said the basic information in the book improved the general understanding of cut foliage plants.

Dr. Patricio Faylon, PCARRD executive director, remarked: "The first of its kind in the Philippines and probably in the whole of Asia, this book intends to serve as the basis for the initial evaluation and selection of cut foliage."

"We hope the book will become a bible for florists and inspire Filipino farmers, gardeners and entrepreneurs to start a new business venture," added Dr. Ramon Valmayor, PARRFI president.

The cut foliage book and three others were published to raise funds for the Philippine Science Heritage Center at the Department of Science and Technology in Bicutan, Taguig. The other books were "I Love Tilapia," "Waling Waling," and "Carrageenan, A Treasure From the Sea." Call 838-7766.

*Email the author at mgiron@i-manila.com.ph*

**THE LEAF** pattern of "Pearl of the Orient" makes it a potential cut foliage material.

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# Taxes, quality of life and quality of gym

From page C1

the big fish? What about the tax evaders, the tycoons who have owed the government billions of pesos for eons now? A Lucio Tan paying up can go a long way in changing the deficit.

Last Sunday night, we had dinner with a bunch of women—all self-supporting (read: no need for men), very productive and tax-paying members of society—and the above was all they were saying over and over. Nail down the tax-evading tycoons once and for all, and the government will not only be sending the right signal to the rest of the country, it will also restore faith in the internal revenue system overnight and renew the people's zeal to pay the right income taxes.

The income of salary earners like us is duly accounted for and diligently taxed to the point that, as one top woman executive said at that dinner, she'd dread getting promoted yet again because she knew that the increased income would only be eaten up by tax.

### Unreasonably burdened

At the end of the day, come accounting time in this country, it's always the educated middle class that gets to pay—dutifully and, often, painfully. The voiceless middle class is unreasonably burdened sometimes. It tries to get by on education or sheer ingenuity and hard work, and saves just enough to achieve or sustain the quality of life it desires for its family, and strives some more to nudge its younger generation a notch higher in society.

This is the class that doesn't stash away money abroad for the simple reason that it doesn't have it, and also because it's educated enough to be aware of its historical and cultural roots, which is here. Its envisioned quality of life is a package that includes time-honored Filipino values, which it knows can be nurtured only here. Provided, of course, it can work for its desired quality of life here.

Since it's getting more and more difficult to have that quality of life, the middle class has been swept by the steady brain drain into greener pastures abroad in the recent past.

The middle class, and that includes the average professional, doesn't mind paying the right taxes (including VAT) as long as it knows and sees that its hard-earned money goes into the right infrastructure and social services that give the desired quality of life. Or lifestyle. Roads that don't get dug up year after year if the politician so desires. Garbage that doesn't threaten to drown you, like the seasonal floods do. A social security system that really keeps you secure in the future. A public school system worth sending your kids to. Health and medical systems that you can trust and for which you don't have to hock the entire family fortune. And so on. In short, the stuff you migrate to Canada and the United States for.

Instead of the above, even as you find it harder to achieve your decent and honorable lifestyle, you see more and more around you the ostentatious and tacky nouveau lifestyle that could only be propped up by corruption in and out of government. It's a corruption-subsidized lifestyle that's easier to be had these days, for the simple reason that the quickest buck could only be made in politics or government service. (Show biz is harder.)

That not only grosses you out, it also hardly inspires you to pay VAT and the right taxes.

Enough depressing thought for the day.

### Welcome development

One rare good news I got the past weeks is that the country's true fitness guru, Tina Juan, is finally expanding her Fitness Advantage. Now that fitness chains are mushrooming, that is welcome development.

Shopping for a gym or fitness center is easy these days. There's one in almost every block. And assembly-line fitness centers are in big malls and hotels. (They're also the latest "cruising" centers, by the way. But that's another story.)

Yet picking the right gym/fitness center could be tricky. Take it from me who's done the gym circuit since 1980, when gyms were only for body builders (heavy weights and sit-ups staggeringly high enough to give you vertigo), onwards into the early '80s when gyms tapped nutritionists who put you under concentration-camp-like calorie watch, and further on into the late '80s and early '90s when fitness meant ultra-power aerobics (high impact, bench) where you were supposed to outpuff and outjump the guy next to you. The '90s saw the emergence of taebo, tai chi, dance, yoga and all other routines inspired by the New Age and eastern disciplines.

Since you've been there and done that, and you've kept your bulges in check (more or less), you now ask how healthy and correct are all these fitness movements/gyms you joined.

In my case, it was when I met Tina Juan in the mid-'90s that I started knowing the answers. I learned the correct fitness route through Tina, which was why I asked her to write a column because I believed that more and more people should be educated about fitness, and know the exact effect of their fitness regimen on their bodies and if they're doing it correctly, to begin with.

I learned a lot of things in time, most of them by reading her column and going to her gym, and which perhaps you could keep in mind when gym-shopping:

**Power aerobics could be punishing to your knees and damaging in the long-term.** That didn't happen to me (almost did) but I saw it happen to some people. You realize that after a time, you get addicted to the power and speed of it, to the adrenalin rush, and you don't care anymore about its health or fitness benefits. It becomes an "aerobics or fitness fix."

When I realized that the fitness instructors in my old gym were really just in for this "aerobics fix"—indulging the addiction to speed and power of their students, without thought for safety and health—I decided it was time to change gyms.

So check out the qualifications of the instructors of the gym you're joining. Do they even know what they're doing? For me, the last straw in the old gym was when the instructors started using very fast music that you couldn't even dance to, much less do aerobics to unless you wanted to twist your ankles.

Are the gym instructors just giving you a fix or are they helping keep your body fit in the long-term? Check out the classes. How crowded are they? Can the instructor see everyone? Does he even have the right music? And so on.

**Power isn't necessarily fitness.** I came to realize what Tina had been saying all along—that speed and power didn't necessarily translate into lean and good bodies. I've joined Tina's classes in the morning a few times and discovered how differently and effectively she does things.

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

She doesn't drive you to the point of exhaustion, unlike other instructors who literally make you "fly" and just send you into a flurry of movements. Tina gives clear instructions that guide you in every movement—she knows when to give them and that's before you execute the steps so that you're way prepared. This way also, you're able to do each movement properly, and the right muscles are worked out.

### Right way

That must be the right workout—you're not pushed beyond your limits, yet you sweat adequately and you feel that your muscles are stretched, toned, generally worked out. There is economy of movement, yet each movement is maximized.

Keep this in mind when you choose your classes.

**Are the trainers focused on you?** For me, this is another factor that sets apart Tina Juan's Fitness Advantage from the other fitness chains. Her instructors watch practically your every move—if you breathe correctly and do weights properly; given your desired shape and toning, if you do the right repetitions.

You hardly have that in an assembly-line gym, where you have to fight for the instructor's attention.

**Choose a gym where instructors can attend to you.** I've realized that it's cross-training that can make me lose weight and keep myself toned. Tennis isn't enough. I really have to mix my cardio or aero with weights. Tina has a good mix of all these.

I can go on and on about the pluses and minuses in a gym. Suffice it to say that I welcome the fact that with Fitness Advantage expanding to a more than a thousand-square meter space at Festival Mall, another huge space in BF Parañaque, and a good gym at ABS-CBN's Eugenio Lopez Jr. Center, Tina Juan can now bring the correct approach to fitness to a bigger market.

The fitness consumer must be discerning.

*E-mail the author at tsanjuan@skyinet.net*

# Good Roots reaches La Union

**SEEING GREEN**

*Doris Gaskell Nuyda*

GOOD Roots is an agro-forestry and development project sponsored by Caltex Philippines. It's been ongoing for over a decade now, bringing expertise to such places as Pagudpud, Ilocos Norte; Lobo, Batangas; and, at present, Pugo, La Union.

Its forestry programs aim to reclaim forest land in ways that do not damage the environment. The old slash-and-burn practice of farmers, for instance, has resulted only in denuded forests and uncertain agricultural production that, in turn, bring in their wake, poverty and poor soil.

So Good Roots provides farmers with tree seedlings (wildlings) and teaches the best ways to plant them, as much to repopulate forests and watersheds, as to clean the air.

The Good Roots team is headed by Ben Wallace, an anthropologist and director of the International Office and Assistant Provost at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas. His working staff is composed of five experts who have been with him since Pagudpud, an indication that they believe in their director's system.

The experts are Marilyn U. Tolentino, ecologist and officer-in-charge; Antonio S. Garvida, forester; Manuelito P. Calventas, agriculturist; Magel P. Garcia, office and residence assistant; and Julie Acoba, extension specialist.

Project sites are chosen according to their needs. Pagudpud has been chosen because it's primarily rural and remote, with some *barangays* located upland and others near the South China Sea, thus differing in their agricultural approaches.

Lobo is likewise remote and rural. While Pagudpud is on the extreme northern part of Luzon, Lobo is tucked away in the south. Pugo (referred to as Good Roots III) is somewhere in-between, neither very rural nor very urban.

One thing the three areas have in common is the need to revive their forests for the sustenance of the community. Wallace stresses that Good Roots is not a reforestry program. It is, he says, "an integrated research and development activity that promotes the cultivation of native tree species and the integration of other species that have proven successful elsewhere."

Another thing the project sites have in common, and this is essential for the program to succeed, is the willingness of farmers to participate.

Before going into an area and selecting a site, the Good Roots team must make studies and researches on it.

In Pugo's case, they found that it was basically an agricultural community (population: less than 14,000), most of the land planted to rice. Through tree plantings, some 36 percent of the total land area has been reclaimed by the forest, a figure that is bound to increase in time.

### Good Roots way

Good Roots works this way: A site is proposed and, if it is deemed in need of assistance in tree planting and agricultural production, the team approaches local government officials, representatives of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, and prospective participants themselves, to explain the program and seek their support.

The team then sets up its headquarters in a house near the project site but accessible (and, if possible, visible) to nonparticipants. The house becomes a multipurpose affair, used both as office and living quarters of the team. In most cases, the surrounding yard becomes a nursery from which the seedlings for distribution are sourced.

Practical considerations are more important to the team members than luxurious accommodations. That was how it was in Pagudpud and Lobo, and this is how it is in Pugo.

Good Roots has been in Pugo for more than eight months now, and already there is much to report. It has produced 35,000-40,000 seedlings.

Communal nurseries have been established in two barangays. Eucalyptus, gmelina, mahogany and acacia are already being planted to rehabilitate denuded watershed areas in nearby mountains.

And, for the first time, the planting of trees along national roads has begun. Trees on main roads not only provide shade, but also reduce air pollution and provide a better view of the local scenery.

Specific trees have been selected for roadside planting. They include eucalyptus, which is an evergreen and thus, says Dr. Wallace, strong and resilient against natural forces. It grows fast and is an effective windbreaker and mosquito repellent.

There is also mahogany, which grows tall, straight and fast, like the eucalyptus.

> Essential in the success of the program is the willingness of farmers to participate

The trees planted in the farms are chosen by the farmers themselves, who tell the team what they want. In most cases, they choose fruit-bearing ones like mango and citrus.

Sometimes, the farmers have to be advised on what trees they need.

In Pagudpud, relates Wallace, fuel wood was encouraged because there wasn't much of it and the people cut down trees for kitchen use and to light up their homes. Lobo farmers preferred to concentrate on fruit trees as they had other sources of fuel besides wood.

In Pugo, the trees earlier mentioned are preferred, although farmers here are also thinking in terms of *rambutan* and lychees.

It used to be that the Good Roots program lasted five years in each project site, but with stories flying fast on how farmers are benefiting from it, Wallace has restructured the program as a three-year undertaking to accommodate requests for similar assistance from all directions. It means fast-tracking schedules of activities and working harder, he says, but farmer-participants are fast learners and he sees no problem in cutting the program short.

The best praise he and his team can get, he adds, is when they are no longer needed in the project site. And so it has been in Pagudpud and Lobo, and so will it be in Pugo.

Good Roots is a good example of how three important sectors of society can come together to make a difference in environmental work. It makes use of industry (Caltex Philippines), the academe (the Southern Methodist University) and the community, the ingredients that can make most any human endeavor work.

*E-mail the author at dorisnuyda@yahoo.com*

## Workshops on plant arts

IKENOBO professor Serapion Metilla will hold a series of seminar workshops on plant arts for profit and leisure.

These will be held on Jan. 25, Tray Landscaping; Feb. 5-9, Flower Arrangement; Feb. 14-16, Mini Waterfall Zen Garden; and March 7-9, Bonsai Culture.

All seminars will be held at Mett's School of Plant Arts, 1-6 p.m., King Louis Garden Center, Manila Seedling Bank compound, Edsa cor Quezon Avenue, Quezon City.

Tray Landscaping is the art of arranging various miniaturized ornamental plants in a low and wide container with a total landscape, while Flower Arrangement covers Ikebana, Western or mass arrangement, free styles, buffet centerpieces, flower-shop operation, corsage-making, bridal bouquet and other wedding ensembles.

The Mini Waterfall Zen Garden is intended for tranquility and meditation, while Bonsai Culture is the art of dwarfing trees.

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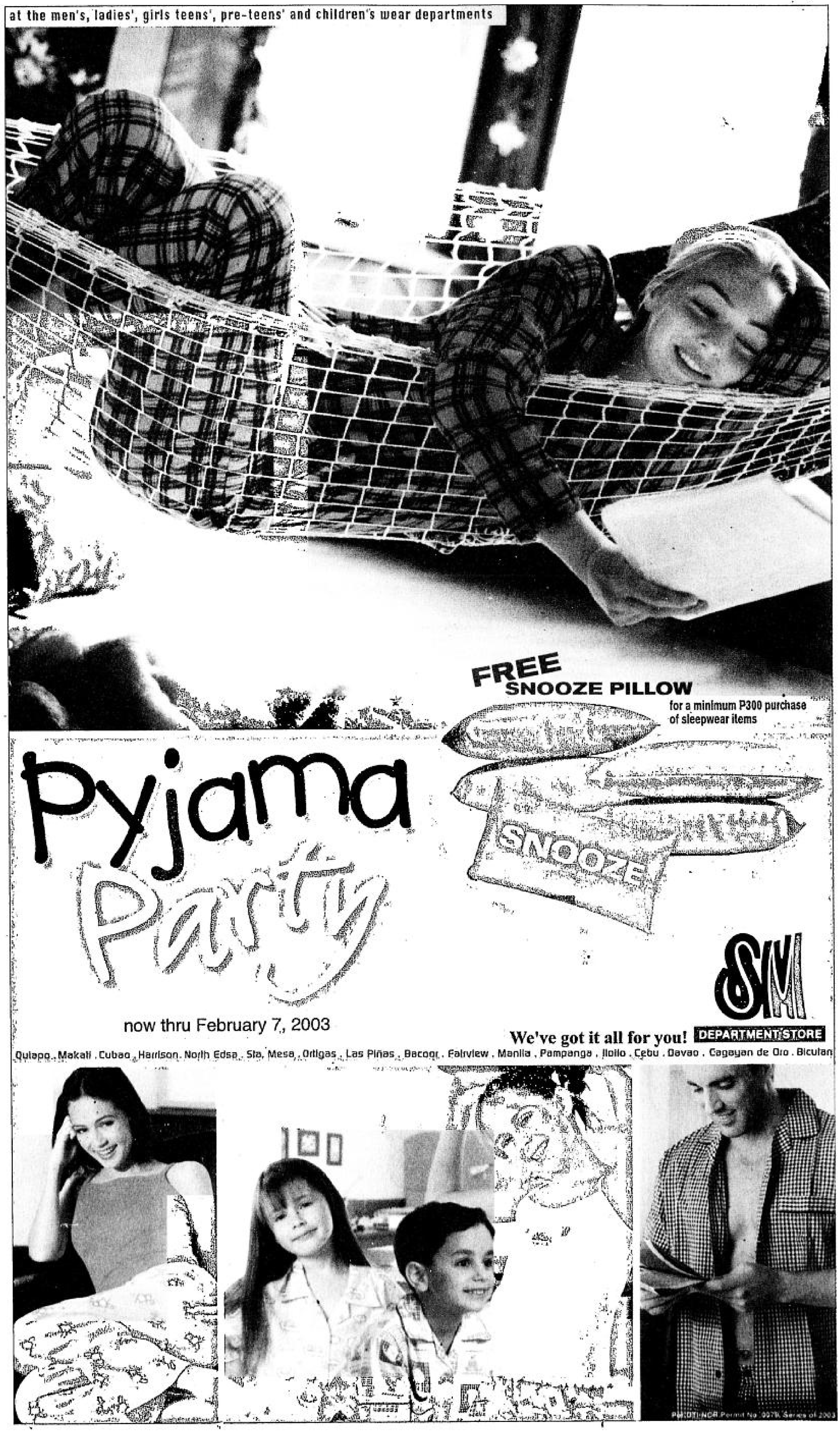
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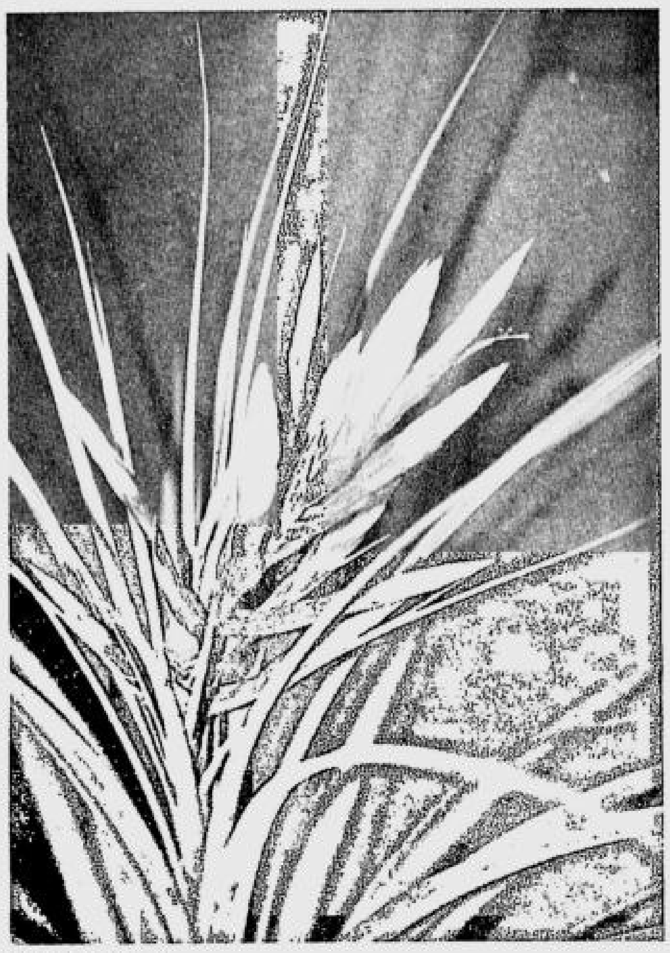
# Lucky plants in the Year of the Goat



**HAIRY** tillandsia

**DRACAENAS** from Korea and Taiwan used as "money trees"

THE YEAR 2003 is ruled by the water goat. So what is in store for us? How do we harness the positive energies of that lunar sign? What do we do to attract good luck and repel the bad one?

The garden is one place where many believe good luck can emanate or flow. It can attract good vibes in health, wealth and better relations.

In the year of the goat, we must replace the blues, lilacs and mint greens of the fast-moving water horse of 2002 with bright red, orange, maroon, crimson, blood red, tangerine and red violet in the home or in the garden. Flowers with these colors such as roses, gerberas, mums, orchids, lipstick plants, uriesseas, guzmanias, tillandsias, cannas or *bandera españolas*, anthuriums, heliconias, passion flowers and hibiscus should flourish in the garden.

Plants whose leaves are tinged, striped, splashed, streaked or spotted with those colors will also invite the good vibes of the year of the goat. They include dracaenas, ti plants, neoregeluas, aechmeia, crotons, excoecaria, coleus, begonia, calathea.

Likewise, plants with pointed leaves like the horns of the goat are also luck bearers this year. These include the agave, the elephant's tusk cactus, the staghorn fern or platy serious, aechmeas, billbergia sabila, dykia, haworthia and mamilaria cacti.

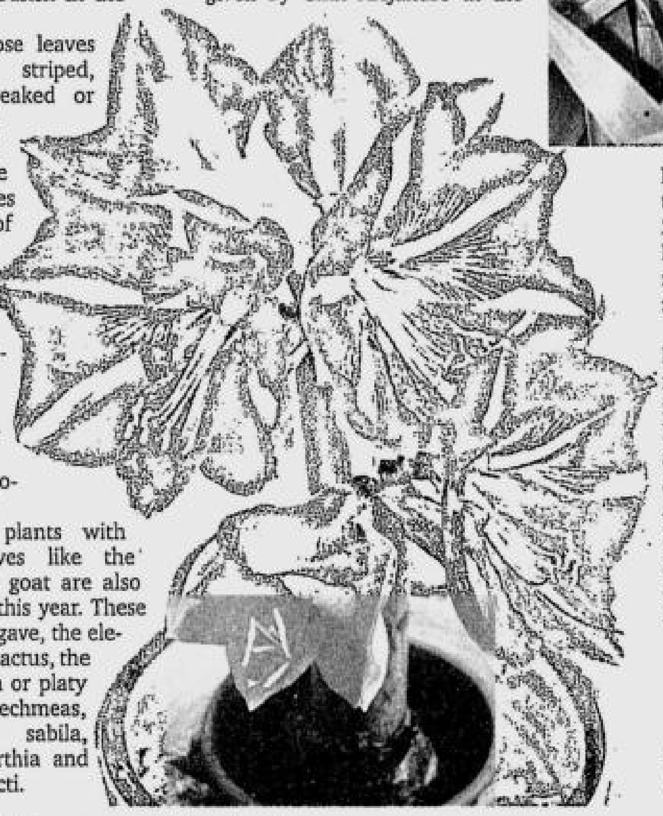
Hairy-leafed plants like begonia rex cacti, ephiscias, African violets, gloxinias, tillandsias and some ferns resemble the goat's hairy and leathery hide so having them is like keeping a goat in your garden.

Since the year's element is water, a small pond with red and orange *koi* or carp, a clay jar or a tub with aquatic plants somewhere in the north side of your garden or even a small aquarium beside a dish garden inside your house near the front door will invite good luck.

Red or black volcanic cinder covering a small patch on the northeastern side of the garden can substitute for a pond if you cannot have one. The cinder patch will symbolize the small body of water.

More suggestions on lucky plants and feng shui tips will be given by Chat Alejandro at the Horticulture 2003 exhibit's lecture-demonstration series Jan. 25-Feb. 3 at the Manila Seedling Bank's Greenhouse 1 and 2, Quezon Avenue corner Edsa in Quezon City.

The plants are available at the Purificacion Orchids and Ornamental Center and all its outlets in SM Fairview, SM Manila, SM Megamall, SM Centerpoint in Sta. Mesa and in the Manila Seedling Bank, which is holding a month-long sale Jan. 25-Feb. 25. Alejandro will be on hand to give interested buyers important feng shui tips in the home and garden.



**BLOOD-RED** lilies for the Chinese New Year

**URIESSEA,** a lucky plant for the Year of the Goat

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# She fears their love won't survive the distance

### LIVE AND LET LIVE

*Tita Dulce*

DEAR Tita Dulce,

Greg has been my boyfriend for a year and six months now. This is not the first time for either of us to have a sweetheart, but for both of us this is the first time we have fallen in love.

I'd call our relationship "perfect"—we learn about each other and ourselves, we laugh and cry, we fight and make up. The only problem is that he is bound to return to Manila at the end of this semester while I'll be staying here in the Visayas.

I love Greg so much that I can't imagine a future without him. And I don't believe in long-distance relationships. I don't believe letters and phone calls can sustain our relationship. But whenever I'm with him, I still feel confident in telling him that no matter what happens, I'll endure the pain just so our relationship could go on.

And that's how I am these days: sometimes drowning in hopelessness, sometimes brimming with hope.

Is there any sense in continuing this relationship?

CROSSROADS

Yes, I think there is sense for the two of you to give such long-distance relationship your best shot.

I would not say the same to sweethearts who have been together for less time than you have, and who have been less close.

I certainly wouldn't be optimistic at all about a long distance relationship between partners who "met" each other—and have since been keeping in touch with each other—via the chat room, text-messaging, letters or the phone only.

In contrast to those pairs, you and Greg have been interacting with each other in person, and it sounds like you have been using your time wisely to know and love each other better. To me, those are sufficient foundations for a love that could span the distance.

I suspect that you see it very much the same way, too, only you can't overcome the fear that, once you are without each other's physical presence, Greg (or you?) might fall for someone who is nearer.

If that's what you fear, then it is not long-distance relationship that you have a quarrel with; your quarrel, rather, is with fidelity—and that's an issue that could arise between lovers whether they are oceans apart or just an arm's length to each other.

You've been with Greg long enough to see if he's the type who easily gets tempted by other girls. And I'd bet that you've stuck with him this long because you saw that he's not. So why think now of breaking up with him simply because his faithfulness, which he proved these past 18 months, will be challenged again tomorrow?

You and Greg have a good thing going. Don't give it up so soon and without a fight.

## He is not her first man

I LOVE my girlfriend very much, but I can't get over the fact that I was not the guy who took her virginity. I feel insecure whenever I think that she won't forget that guy and her first time with him.

DM

I'm sure she won't forget him and their intimacy. But since the past is something you can't change, why make it an issue? I think what's more important now is that she is sincere in your relationship.

Many marriages and boyfriend-girlfriend relationships involve women who have such a past, but, despite such past, those relationships succeed. To me, that means that a woman can keep memories of her first sex and her first love and yet not be ruled by them, but, instead, be an honest, loving and faithful sweetheart or wife to the new man in her life.

When a woman with a past sees that her boyfriend or husband loves her truly and much, I'd bet that, no matter how unforgettable what had been, she will realize her true happiness lies not with the past but with the present.

In the first place, the fact that she parted with him shows he and their relationship were not that great. That she's with you now says a lot about how much better you and your relationship are.

*E-mail titadulce@netscape.net or send letters to P.O. Box 2353, Makati CPO 1263 Makati City, or PDI, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City*

# Lectures on ornamental gardening

ON JAN. 25-Feb. 2, the Philippine Horticulture Society Inc. will hold its annual flower and garden show at the Manila Seedling Bank, Edsa cor. Quezon Avenue, QC.

The speakers and topics are: Chat Alejandro, Feng Shui and Lucky Plants for the Year of the Goat, Jan. 25, 3 p.m.; PJ Nepomuceno, Bromeliad Culture, Jan. 26, 10 a.m.; Fred Salud, Experimental and Futuristic Landscaping, Jan. 26, 3 p.m.; PJ Nepomuceno, Care and Propagation of Bromeliad, Jan. 27, 3 p.m.; C.V. Lazaro, Basic Orchid Growing, Jan. 28, 3 p.m.; Vic Chin Jr., Jan. 29, 3 p.m.; Jimmy Floro, Fern Culture, Jan. 30, 3 p.m.; and Joyce Kato, Futuristic Ikebana of Ohara and Ikenobo, Jan. 31, 3 p.m.

On Feb. 1, 3 p.m., Fely Gupit will show Kusamono (grass arrangement); Feb. 2, 10 a.m., Jerry de Jesus, on Indoor Gardening; and at 3 p.m., Serapion S. Metilla on mini waterfall Zen garden. Call Thelma Miguel at 642-0580.

# *Bonsai and suiseki masters meet*

WORKSHOPS and demonstrations by bonsai and suiseki masters from Japan, Indonesia, Taiwan, Europe and the Philippines highlight the forthcoming 7th Asia-Pacific Bonsai and Suiseki Exhibition and Convention (Aspac) 2003.

The event is set on Feb. 27-March 3 at the SM Megamall Megatrade Hall, Mandaluyong City.

The joint exhibition-convention with the theme "Trees and Stones in Harmony" will feature Japanese "master of masters" Masahiko Kimura. Robert Steven, Budi Sulistyo, Sue Aziz and M. Paiman will lead the Indonesian delegation.

Pius Notter from Switzerland will share his expertise to delegates. Gerrit Lodder from the Netherlands will talk on "How to Promote Bonsai Worldwide." His Lodder Company was the first to introduce bonsai commercially in Europe.

The other Asian headliners are I. Chi Su and Chiu Chang Chiang (Taiwan), Johnny Chang (Hong Kong), Sneh Prasar and Sailesh Kapadia (India), and Vic Ceballos, Felicidad Gupit, David Du and Rodolfo Reyes (Philippines).

There will be a grand national bonsai competition and the awarding of Indonesia's Ismail Saleh Awards, an international bonsai photo competition.

Registration and reservation for commercial booths are now open. Visit Unit 106 Chateau Verde Condominium, Gate 2, Bo. Ugong, Pasig City, with tel. 671-8381/82/3122, fax 671-8382, e-mail info@tradeshow.com.ph.

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**GLASS-TOPPED** dining table, with lighting accents made of diaphanous gauze and abaca balls, sits 12 people.

**GRAY** and black cabinets and countertops are balanced off by sculptural white and black overhead cabinets.

**FEONA'S** bedroom with its suspended bed, unpainted concrete walls and cabinets made of black Formica boards.

# House of refracted light

A well-traveled couple remakes a nondescript Fairview property into something intimate, airy and bright

From page C8

budding interior designer, lives with Agnes and Max.

One of Feona's bedroom's focal points is her swinging bed, which is suspended by two pairs of steel cables attached to the ceiling. The area is devoid of color save for the black cabinets, a covered futon and a shiny beanbag. Indeed, it's not your typical young woman's bedroom if not for such feminine touches as the suspended bed.

The absence of bright colors is immediately evident by the main entrance, which consists of a double door made of slatted wood in two shades. Each panel is divided in two and comes with built-in sheets of framed glass that can be folded to let air in. A mini-foyer borders a textured wall spruced up with a series of diamond-shaped gray tiles that Halili refers to as "crocodile scales." The same pattern is repeated on the garage wall.

One of Agnes' initial concerns during construction was the prevalence of gray and black shades, especially in the kitchen. Halili assured her that such dark colors were to be used only as accents to set off white walls, cabinets and ceilings.

## Minimalist echoes

"It's the people who will eventually impart cheer in the house," Halili recalls herself saying to Agnes. "They soon understood what the entire design was all about. It wasn't hard to convince them because they're educated, open-minded and fairly well-traveled."

In keeping with the house's minimalist theme, Halili did away with such details as cabinet handles. The sliding doors leading to the three bedrooms are also free of doorknobs. In place of a doorknob is a square-shaped black indention that allows the family to slide a particular door with ease. Instead of using a lock, she secured a sliding door that leads to the garage with a wooden bolt. Think of it as a smaller, minimalist version of a huge gate featured in "Lord of the Rings."

Minimalism spills over to the bedroom where the shiny, polyurethane-finished floor sets off the white walls and ceiling, and echoes the drop ceiling that holds a series of concealed and pin lights. A pair of movable side tables with overhead reading lamps doubles as working tables and trays.

"The lighting system with separate switches suits the couple," says Halili with a chuckle. "Max wanted bright daylight, while Agnes finds comfort in the soft, warm glow of pin lights."

Halili achieves a rustic, outdoor feel in the bathroom, part of which is covered with smooth river stones and accented with bamboo poles. Even the sink is made from a solid mass of rock sculpted by craftsmen from nearby San Mateo. She mounted it on a solid wooden board supported by a concrete base that hides any trace of unsightly plumbing fixture.

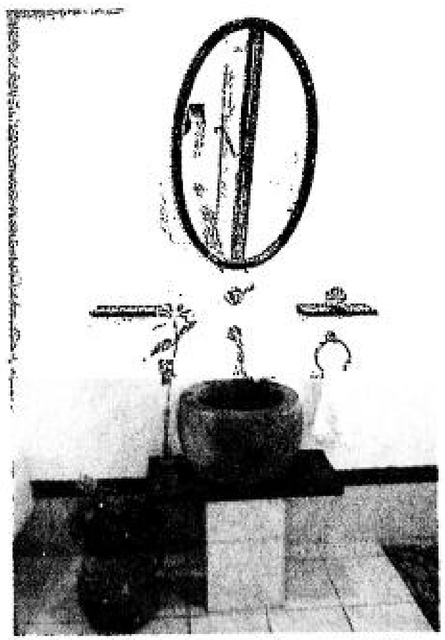
"That thing probably weighs a ton," she said of the sink. "But it costs a lot cheaper than the German-made porcelain sink we used in the powder room."

One of the architectural elements that define the Espejo home is the presence of transparent overhead panels in the living room and back entrance, which allow refracted sunlight to filter in. For security reasons, Halili chose hard plastic instead of glass. Unlike the direct glare coming from a skylight, refracted light is even, cooler and less harsh.

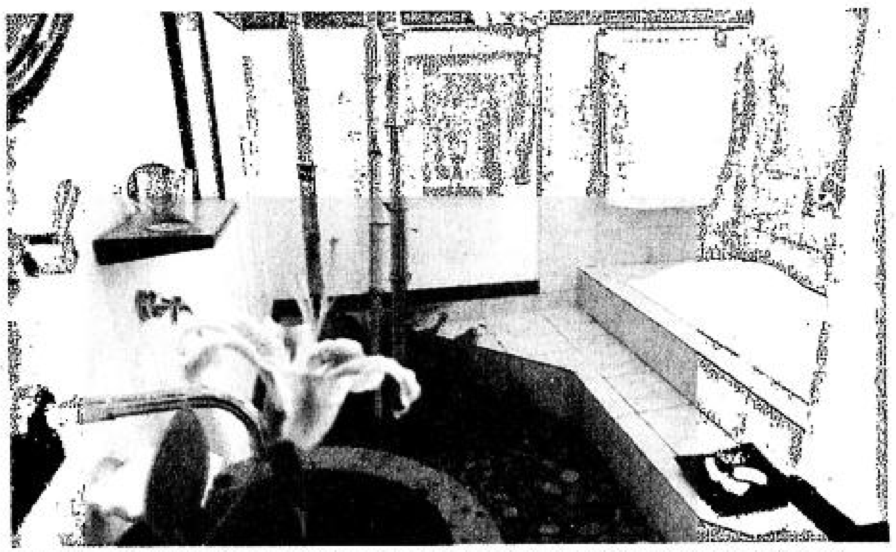
"In this case," Halili say, "the light that hits the living room is sunlight that bounces off from the eaves. Thus, their curtains, furniture and accent pieces are safe from the harsh, fading effect of direct sunlight." Best of all, natural light brings to fulfillment the Espejos' lifelong dream of living in a bright, airy home with minimal clutter.

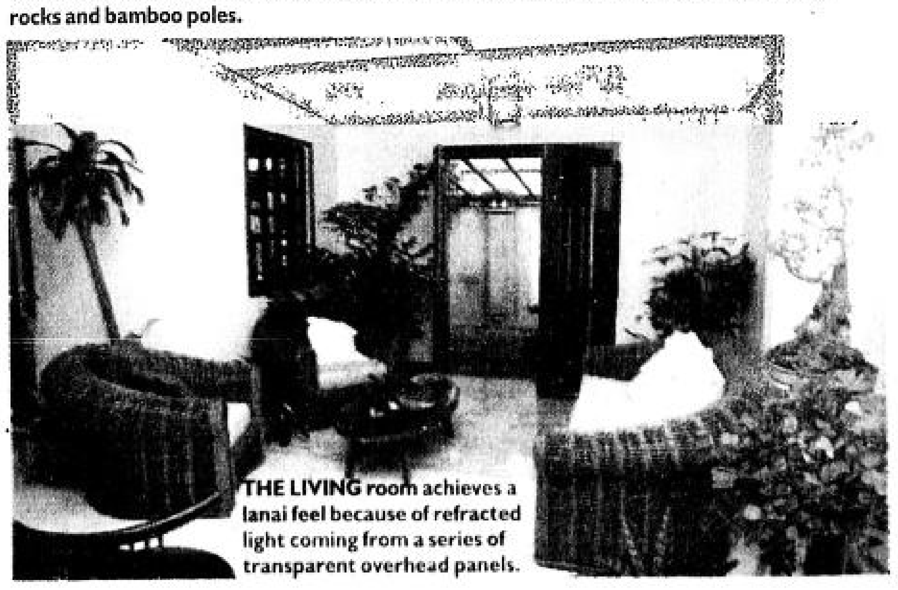
*E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph*

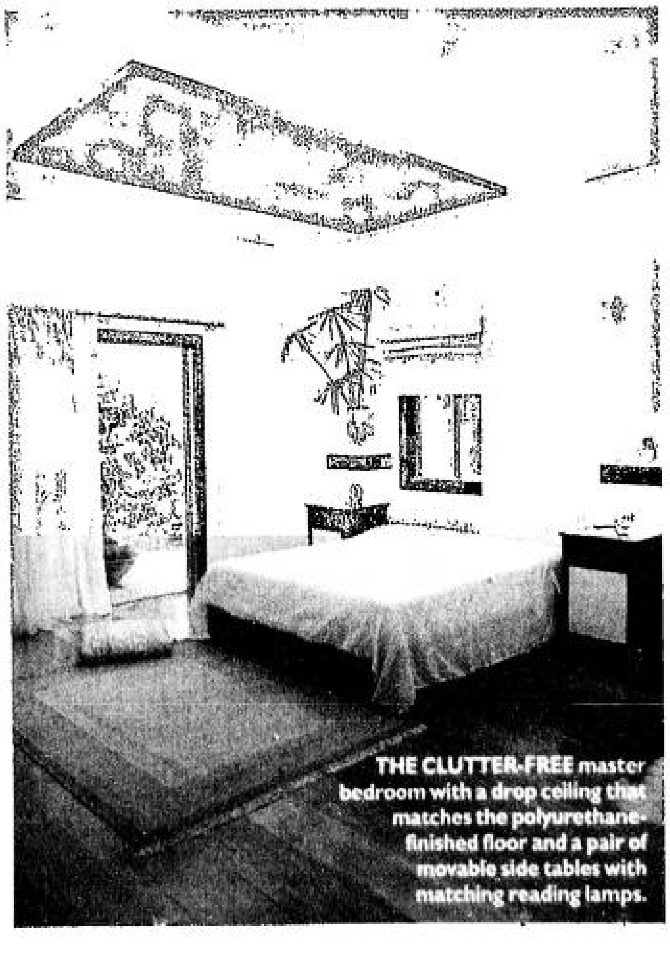
**THE HUGE** family room doubles as a communal guest room whenever relatives from the province pay the Espejos a visit. Futons and trundle beds are on standby.


**THE RUSTIC** bathroom with a carved rock for a sink

**AT HOME** with Agnes Espejo


**THE MAIN** bathroom achieves an outdoor feel, thanks to such elements as smooth river rocks and bamboo poles.


**THE LIVING** room achieves a lanai feel because of refracted light coming from a series of transparent overhead panels.


**THE CLUTTER-FREE** master bedroom with a drop ceiling that matches the polyurethane-finished floor and a pair of movable side tables with matching reading lamps.

# Seminar on Japanese language education

## GOINGS ON

THE JAPAN Foundation Manila Office and the Center for International Studies (CIS) will hold a Japanese Language Teachers' seminar-workshop 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Feb. 1, at the CIS, 1/F Benton Hall, University of the Philippines, Diliman, Quezon City. The lectures and presentations will focus on the theme "How to Treat Culture in Japanese Language Education." Deadline for submission of the duly accomplished registration form is Jan. 28. The Japan Foundation Manila Office is at 12/F Pacific Star Building, Makati Avenue, Makati City. Call 811-6155 to 58 and 911-6153.

**CELEBRATION.** The Atrium Lobby of the Century Park Hotel brings a Chinese New Year special with Dragon and Lion Dance, 7 p.m. on Jan. 31. On Jan. 31-Feb. 2, watch Chinese calligraphy and painting demo by UP Prof. Arnold Esguerra. The Philippine Institute of Quezon City Chinese Orchestra will perform at 6 p.m. on Feb. 1. On Feb. 2, 9 a.m.-12 noon, watch Tai-ji demonstration.

**HOMECOMING.** The Camp Crame High School in Camp Crame, Quezon City, will hold an alumni homecoming on Feb. 14 at the school premises. Activities will start at 5 p.m. Call 728-5897, (0919) 582-8582, (0917) 503-8321 or 721-2447.

**SALE.** The Grand Fiesta Sale runs until Jan. 31 at Glorietta. The event offers shopping discounts at Glorietta outlets and free gifts from Ayala Center. For every P500 purchase, shoppers are entitled to gifts from Island Souvenirs and the Lucban concessionaires and a chance to join the raffle, where trips to Cebu, Boracay and Corregidor and hotel overnight stays can be won.

**REUNION.** Batch '65 alumni from Assumption Academy of Pampanga and Don Bosco Academy will hold a joint reunion on Feb. 16 at Greenfields Country Club in Sindalan, San Fernando, Pampanga. Topbilled "Chill Out 2003," registration for the event starts at 9:30 a.m. Call (0917) 530-2734 or 636-0255 to 58 for Manila residents, and (0918) 903-8838 for Pampanga residents.

**COOKING COURSES.** Maya Kitchen offers business courses on Jan. 25. For those who want to get into the baking business, start off with Bakery and Bakeshop class, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Coinciding with this course is Japanese Cooking, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Also scheduled on the same day is Cake Decoration class, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Other One-Day Special Courses for January and February are: Pasta Class, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Brownies for Valentine's Day Class, also on the same date, from 1:30-5 p.m.; and Cooking (Basic) for Messmen, Stewards and Beginners on Jan. 28-31, Tuesday-Friday, 1:30-5 p.m., for Certificate Courses with Hands-On with pre-registration requirements.

Visit the Maya Kitchen Tuesday to Friday at the 8/F, Liberty Building, A. Arnaiz Ave. (Pasay Road), Makati City. Call 892-1185, 892-5011 local 108.

**FUNDRAISING CONCERT.** Ateneo de Manila High School Class of 1978 (Silver Jubilarians) and College Class of 1982 are holding a fund-raising concert and party on Jan. 29 at Dish in the Power Plant Mall, Rockwell Center. It will benefit the Ateneo de Manila Scholarship Fund.

**PROMO.** Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall launches "Win your Dreams" raffle promo. Purchases made from Jan. 15-April 30 are qualified for the first grand draw on May 4 where a brand new Nissan Serena, a dining room showcase, kitchen appliances and gift certificates from Sta. Lucia East Department Store will be given away.

**FOUNDATION DAY.** On Feb. 2, the Daughters of Wisdom marks the 300th year of its foundation. It launches a year-long celebration with a Eucharistic celebration at 2 p.m. to be held at the Immaculate Conception Church in Lantana St., Cubao, Quezon City. The Mass will be presided over by His Excellency Socrates B. Villegas, DD, Auxiliary Bishop of Manila.

**REUNION.** The Navea-Loyola clan will hold its 1st grand family reunion on Jan. 26, Oro Vista Royale Village Clubhouse, Marcos Highway, Antipolo City. The attendees will consist of the children, grandchildren and great grandchildren of Ramon O. Navea and Iluminada Loyola Navea. Call Grace Galvez at 415-9909 or (0917)447-6828.

**GARDEN SHOW.** The Las Piñas Garden Club will hold its 11th garden show and exhibit on Feb. 6-23 at the Philam Village, Las Piñas City.

The annual garden show, which will center on the theme, "Halaman at Tubig—Yaman ng Buhay at Kalikasan," will feature a landscape exhibit of water gardens designed by members, a competition of various plant species, and a commercial section that will sell ornamental plants, fruits and forest trees, fertilizers and other gardening supplies.

A lecture series on a wide range of topics and issues on gardening will also be conducted. Las Piñas Rep. Cynthia A. Villar and Imelda T. Aguilar, wife of Las Piñas Mayor Vergel A. Aguilar, have been invited as special guests during the formal opening of the event on Feb. 6 at 4 p.m. Call 872-8517, 874-2365, 875-1889 or (0917) 895-3424.

**OPENING.** Pottery Exchange opens at Home Center, Lifestyle Section, Eastwood, Libis, Quezon City on Feb. 1.

Pottery's new location with ample parking space, conveniently situates itself to its clients. Accessibility being the studio's prime consideration, the four partners, Lanelle Fernando, Ruthie Santiago, Bong Garovillo, Lydia Paredes found a perfect location in Eastwood, described by urban dwellers as "a city within a city." The studio will make available its newly acquired state of the art six brand new electric potter's wheel for pottery students. Classes are open to all ages. Classes are conducted Mondays to Sundays, 10 a.m.-12 noon, 2 p.m.-4 p.m. and 6 p.m.-8 p.m. Pottery Exchange offers two modules: Handbuilding with stoneware and Pottery lessons using the Potter's Electric Wheel, both for four sessions each. Arrangements can be made at 658-3866 or 630-5854. Pottery Exchange is open Mondays to Sundays, 10 a.m.-10 p.m.

Aside from the handbuilding and pottery lessons, the studio also offers functional home pieces, decors, stoneware ceramics, table tops, handmade sinks and wall accents.

**APPOINTMENTS.** Denise V. Tioseco, who recently graduated from Harvard University's Graduate School of Education with a degree of Ed. M. Administration, Planning and Social Policy, and the University of California, where she completed a degree in Psychology, Law and Society, was recently appointed assistant director of admissions of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge. Her sister, Leslie V. Tioseco Esq., who also just graduated from the Gonzaga University in Spokane, Washington, with a degree of Juris Doctoris, and the University of California in Santa Barbara with a degree of Bachelor of Arts Major in Political Science and Asian and American Studies, was recently appointed as deputy prosecuting attorney of the city and county of Honolulu in Hawaii. Both are daughters of Dennis P. Tioseco, a lawyer and realtor, and Maria Lourdes S. Veloso Tioseco, now based in Woodland Hills, California.

**KRISTEL** Lyris Guevarra (honorable mention, solo, Senior Division, Australian Conservatoire of Ballet Festival and Awards, 2002, Melbourne, Australia) will alternate with Janina Marie David (silver medalist, Solo, Senior Division, 2002 Australian Conservatoire of Ballet) as Princess Odette (White Swan) in the full-length production of "Swan Lake." Benjamin Ella be Prince Siegfried. All three are scholars of the Vella C. Damian School of Ballet. The show will be presented by the Association of Ballet Academies Philippines (ABAP), 6 p.m., Jan. 26 at the Teatro Aguinaldo, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.

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**THE CORRIDOR** leading to the back entrance is bathed in sunlight refracted toward a glass panel above the door. Cabinets with handleless doors made of whiteboard enable Agnes to maintain order in the house.

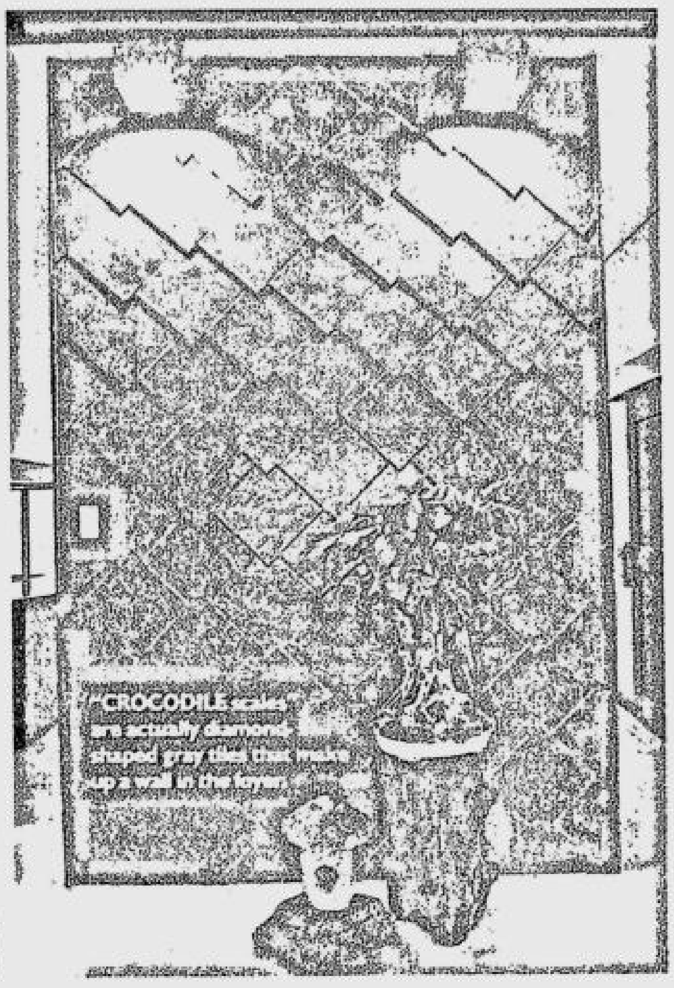
# House of refracted light

**Text by Alex Y. Vergara**
**Photos by Val Handumon**

WHEN the time came to build a new house on their Fairview property two years ago, Max and Agnes Espejo wanted something totally different from the dark, generic dwelling they once called home for almost 25 years. Together with interior designer and architect Aia Santos Halili, they were able to come up with an airy, Japanese-inspired abode with ample sources of refracted light.

The Espejos' old home followed the mandatory design of a defunct housing project that left them with very little room to express themselves. The onslaught of termites, however, prompted them to tear down the old structure to make way for a new one. This development finally gave the Espejos, especially Agnes, the chance to choose a design that reflects their taste and lifestyle.

"I learned about Aia's work from my sister," says Agnes. "I really admire how she combines form and function with as few details as possible."



**CROCODILE** scales are actually diamond-shaped gray tiles that [illegible] up a wall in the foyer.

After giving Halili a general idea of what they wanted, the Espejos gave her a free hand. Although her ideas were limitless, the modest budget she had to work with wasn't. But that didn't stop her and her team from coming up with an interesting piece of work with a P1.6-million price tag in less than six months.

## Quite a sum

"That's still quite a sum," says Halili, "but considering how the value of money has gone down these days, the amount is no longer as big as it used to be."

How did she do it? Primarily by substituting expensive materials with cheaper but not necessarily inferior alternatives. In lieu of costly Formica boards, for instance, she opted for cheaper sheets of whiteboard for cabinet doors—yes, the same kind used in lecture halls. Each panel resembles a shoji door cut and framed by darker pieces of wood.

Halili, however, used real Formica boards on a series of black cabinets in the daughter's bedroom. Since the couple's two older children are now married and have families of their own, only youngest daughter Feona, a

HOUSE/ C6

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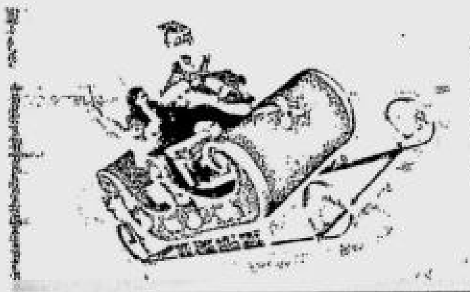

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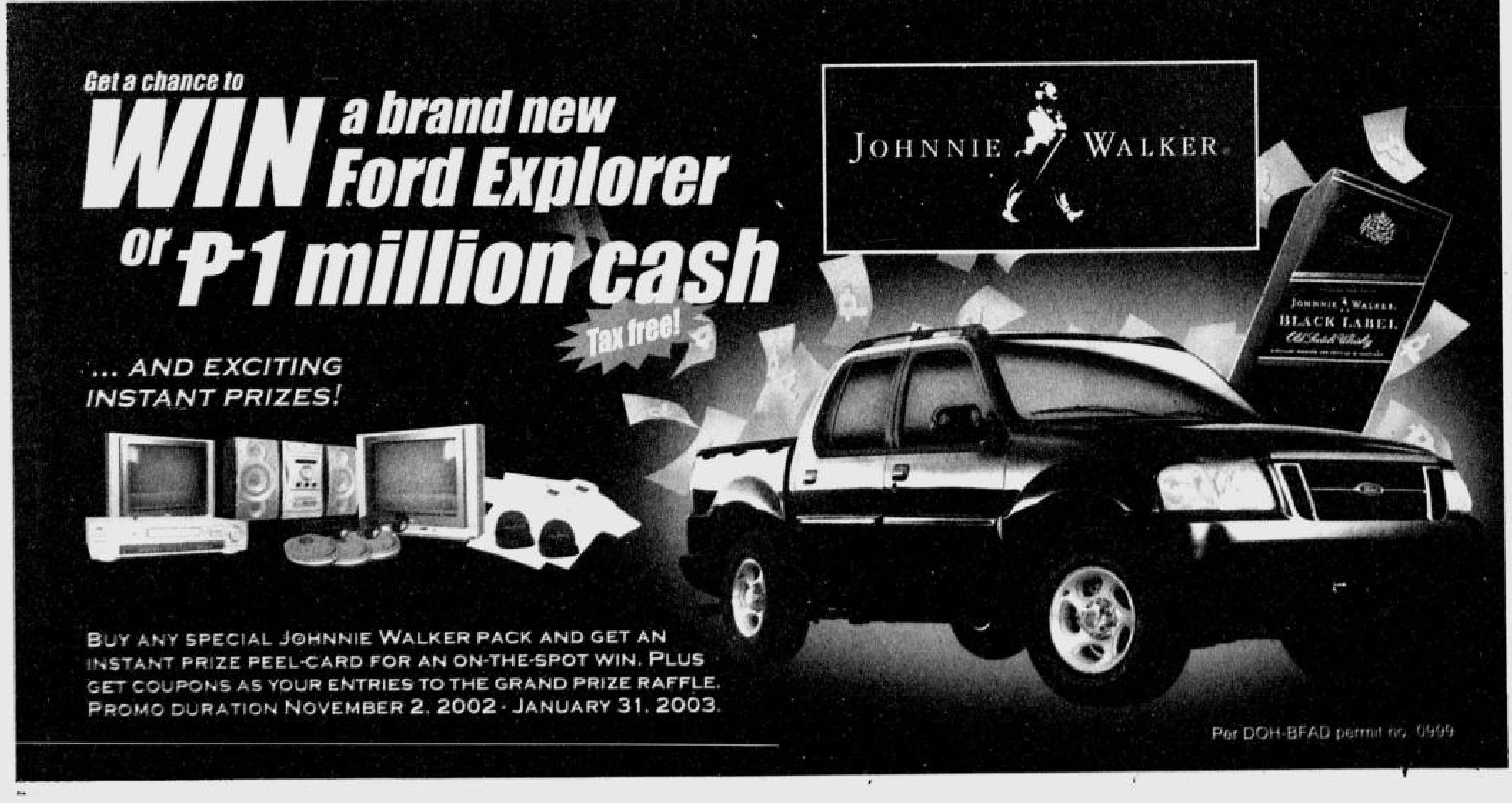
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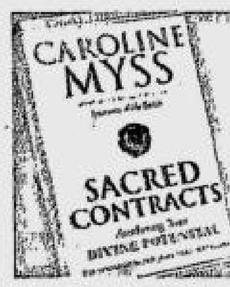
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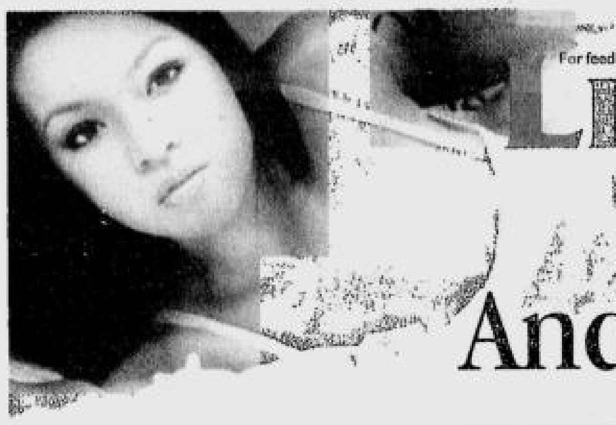

# And Miles to go before she sleeps

**Text by Cheche V. Moral**
**Photos by Ronnie Salvacion**
PICTORIAL DIRECTION AND STYLING BY CHECHEL JOSON

UTTER her name and you get the complete attention of every hot-blooded male within hearing distance. Brandish her photo and boys go wild and trade you favors to let them keep it.

The scenario doesn't quite paint a nice picture of the Filipino male, but it does say a lot about the appeal of screen siren Aubrey Miles. Though a relative newcomer in the entertainment industry, the dusky 20-year-old has that

AND MILES/ D2

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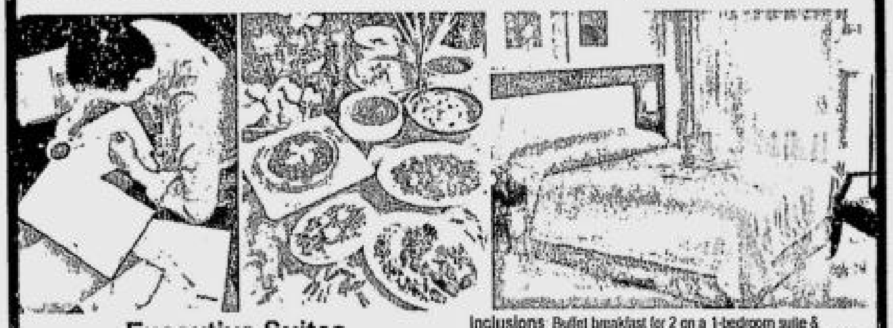

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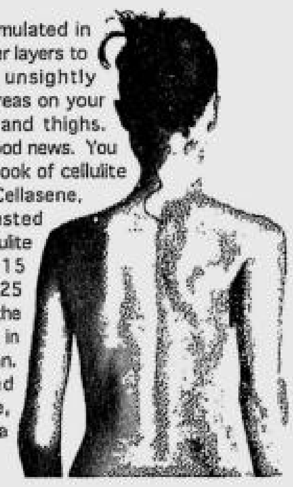

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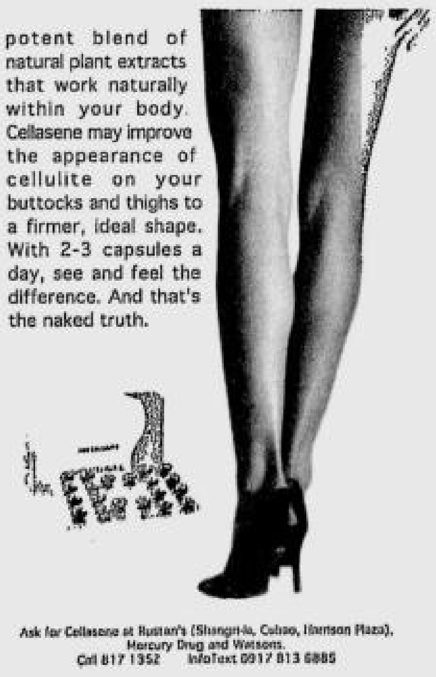

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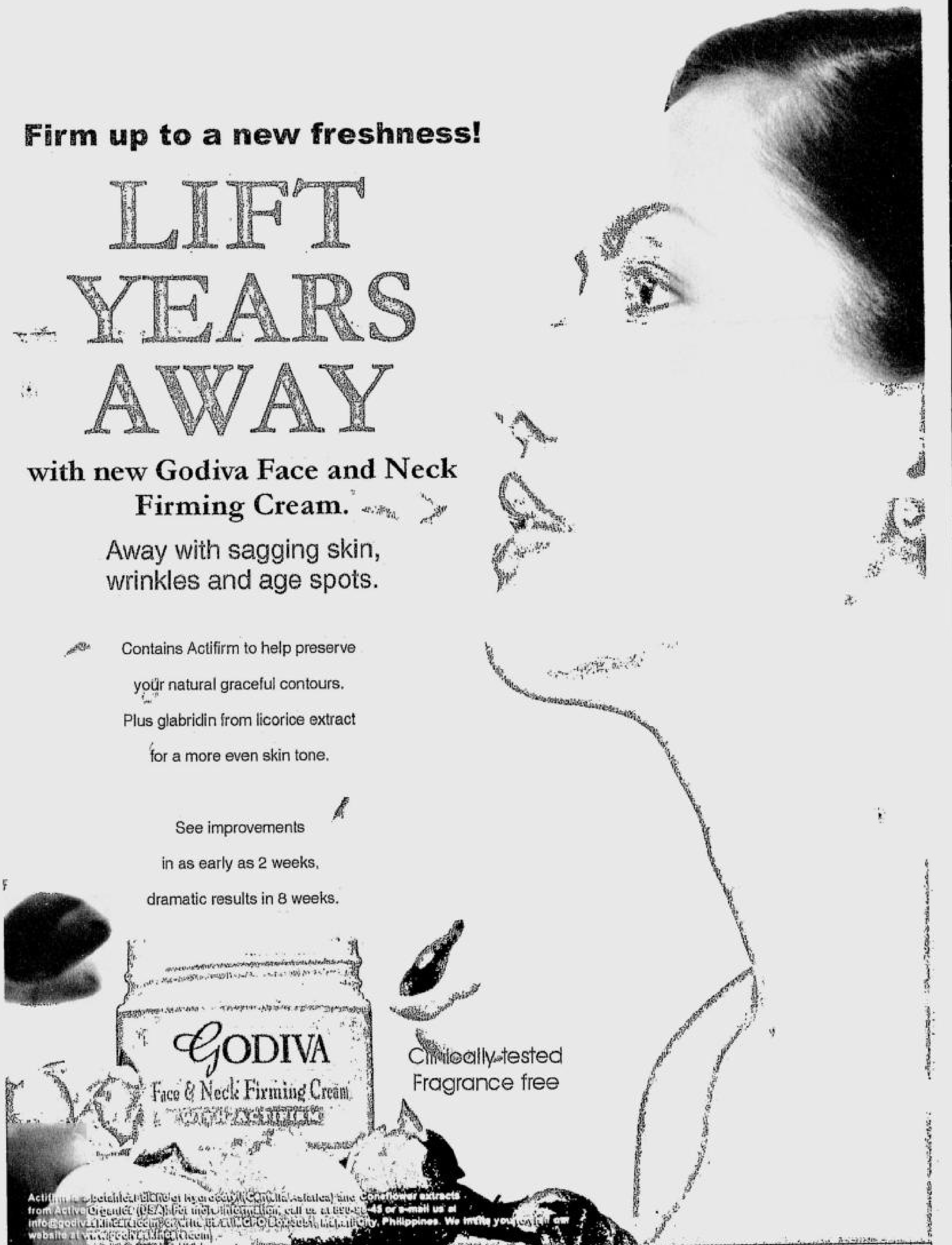

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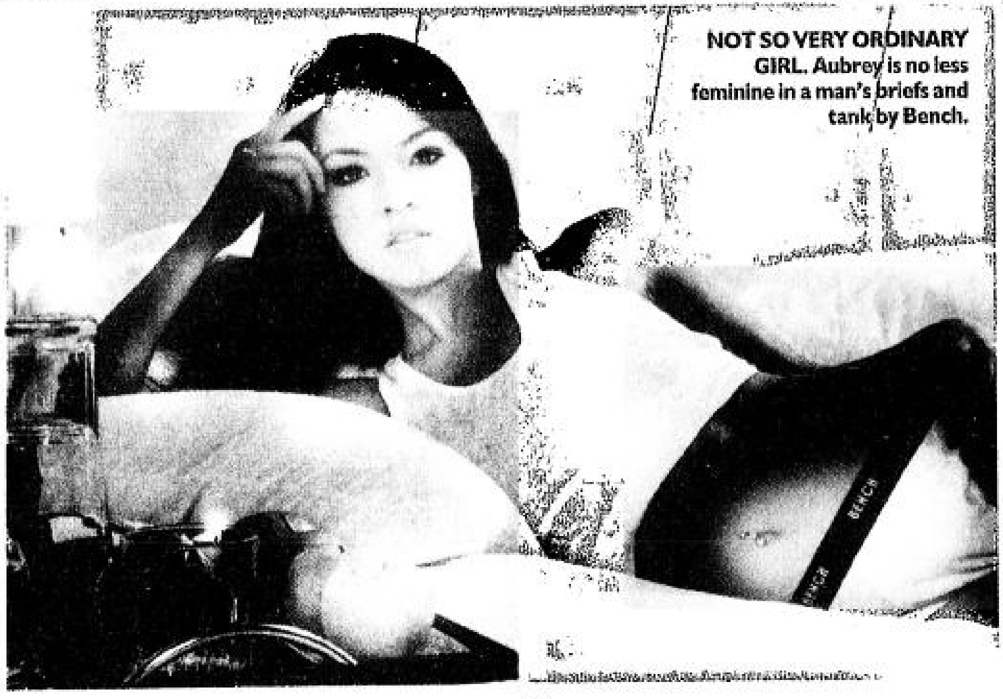

**NOT SO VERY ORDINARY GIRL.** Aubrey is no less feminine in a man's briefs and tank by Bench.

**WHITE NIGHTS.** She's in a lace-trimmed bra and matching silk panties by HerBench; stockings and garter belt, stylist's own.

# And Miles to go before she sleeps

From page D1

effect on the public that fashion retailer Ben Chan included her in his enviable roster of endorsers of his Bench and HerBench labels.

In front of the camera, her otherwise innocent, Lolita-esque face transforms overnight. With a taunting, coquettish twitch on her lips and a mischievous glint in her eyes, Aubrey personifies the sensuously enticing image of HerBench undergarments.

Last November, when she was only three months into show business, Miles (real name Aubrey Sandel), picked up where another dusky beauty, Assunta de Rossi, had left off: she was launched via a red-hot underwear fashion show at the Hotel InterCon.

## Respect

She may be enjoying every bit of her newfound popularity, with TV shows, movie projects and product endorsements left and right, but Miles dispels the notion that her admirers consist only of the leery and the boorish.

"I still get treated with respect when I go out," she says. "When I am in the malls, I get approached for autographs. And these are mostly women who even ask to have their young children photographed with me. I find it very flattering."

Sure, she admits, she gets her share of catcalls and offensive remarks from some insolent men, but she never allows it to get to her. "I knew what I was getting into so I was prepared. I don't allow myself to get affected. I just ignore them," she says with a shrug.

At 5'6" and weighing only 108 pounds, Miles doesn't quite fit the bill of the sex star; she's not bosomy and voluptuous. In fact, she is more the skinny, ramp-model type. Though she looks perfectly svelte, Miles admits she needs to put on weight. "I don't feel as fit as before when I used to go to the gym every day. Now I get to go only twice a week because of my work," she says.

The sexy star would never dream of going under the knife even if a project called for it. "I think I look fine. I could use a few more inches [of height] though," she says.

Blessed with a fine and powerful voice, Miles chose to abandon her music studies when the glitter of Tinseltown beckoned. It was a decision that didn't please her family.

"They were uneasy, not shocked but uneasy," she says of her scantily clad images on the screen and in print.

The third in a brood of four, her parents separated when she was young. "I've always been ambitious," says this veteran of several small beauty tilts. "This is what I want and I'm enjoying it. I can't think of anything to make me give it up." Plus, she admits, it pays well.

It wasn't long before her family accepted her work. "Now they're very supportive. They don't mind being seen in public with me."

Though she's not the family's breadwinner, the young actress is proud to say she shares with them her earnings. "I'm happy that my mom is *pa-shopping-shopping na lang*," she smilingly says.

## Stigma

When she set aside singing arias to shed her clothes for the cameras, Miles was aware of the stigma that would befall her. "I'll be a hypocrite if I say I didn't used to look down on bold stars. But I realized, *kanya-kanya rin pala*," she says.

Confident that she can't be taken advantage of, she makes sure that her contract is followed to the letter.

"I have my limitations," she says. "If you are exactly like how they see you onscreen, then that's it. It all depends on how you conduct yourself."

She says people are surprised when they get to know her. She insists she's not some dim-witted bimbo who's out to undress at the drop of a hat. "If with others what you see is what you get, with me there's always more than what you can see," she says.

Unlike other young women and show-biz denizens, she'd rather pay her dermatologist a visit than hit the bars to unwind. "I don't go out a lot. I've done that in the past. Now it's once a week, *minsan sapilitan pa*."

Her profession, however, has made it difficult for her to get into a relationship. And it's not just because she's too busy to find time for one. "I like men who are liberal-minded, who understand the kind of work that I do, and that's hard to find in traditional Filipino males," she says. "I don't want to have to explain myself, so I like guys who are of western orientation."

Determined to succeed, Miles makes it clear that she's in this business to work, not for any hanky-panky. But people sometimes get the wrong ideas. "Sure, I've gotten propositioned. They were old enough to be my father," she says with a grimace. "No way!"

With a good head over her shoulder, it's pretty clear this girl will go miles.

Catch Aubrey Miles in bedtime get-up and have wanton bedroom thoughts

HERBENCH AND BENCH UNDERGARMENTS ARE AVAILABLE AT BENCH BODY IN GLORIETTA 4 AND ALABANG TOWN CENTER AND AT ALL BENCH BOUTIQUES.

HAIR AND MAKEUP: JINGKY ILUSORIO

**BED OF ROSES.** She seduces the camera in lace-trimmed thongs and floral-print tank, both by HerBench.

**TEMPTING LOLITA.** She poses in a baby pink cropped tank and lime green hipster panties by HerBench.

**AND AUBREY WAS HER NAME.** Aubrey Miles, who was named after the popular song by Bread, lazes on a rose-petal-strewn bed in HerBench's skintone push-up bra and nude thongs.

## FASHION AND BEAUTY ADVICE

# Beating the 'blahs' and perfect combos

**By Apples Aberin-Sadhwani**

*There is no cosmetic for beauty like happiness.*—Countess of Blessington, 1789-1849

**DO you have any tips and tricks on how to beat the "blahs"? There are days when no matter what I do, I can't seem to feel good inside and out. Whenever I feel this way, my clothes won't fit right, my hair won't fall in place and my face turns dry and blotchy. What's a girl to do?**

I strongly believe that looking and feeling good are interrelated. And although a positive attitude is the best weapon against the doldrums, there are just days when no matter what you do, nothing ever seems to fall in place. When this happens, take the extra effort to prettify yourself. Sometimes all you need is a little boost to lift your spirits.

Here are some of my favorite tricks for beating the "blahs":

**Moisturize!** You'll be surprised at how a little bit of cream can make a difference. Your dry, blotchy skin can instantly turn soft, dewy and smooth. Try Shiseido UV White Protector or Neutrogena moisturizer. Both are light and non-greasy. For extremely dry skin, Estee Lauder's Re-Nutriv Ultimate Lifting Cream is highly effective. Also, hydrate yourself by drinking lots of water. You will surely look and feel better after doing these first steps.

**Disguise skin imperfections and even out skin tone by using concealer.** Bobbi Brown has a great cream concealer that's perfect for dry skin. Then, apply foundation, if needed. Choose something sheer and light like Shu Uemura Water Perfect water-in cake foundation. You can also try Shisheido UV White dual foundation, which can help create the appearance of flawless skin. Remember to keep things light and natural. Too much make up will only make you look worse.

**Add a touch of blush.** Choose a nice peach, coral or warm pink tone and apply on the apples of your cheeks for a healthy glow. Cream blushes are easy to apply and can give you a dewy appearance but if you want a matte finish, go for powder blushes.

**Wear lip-gloss or tint.** Pick one with just a bit of color to brighten up your face. It's a great way to look pulled together in a jiffy. Bobbi Brown, Clinique, Mac and Nars have a wide selection of glosses and tints.

**Curl your lashes and wear mascara.** Your eyes will open up and look bigger and brighter. Shu Uemura lash curlers are possibly the best in the market. Meanwhile, try Maybelline Full 'N Soft mascara for everyday wear. It looks natural when applied, doesn't smudge and is easy to remove.

**Wear your hair in a ponytail.** This way, you don't have to worry about your unruly mane. Plus, you'll look chic and sleek. If you don't favor this look, go to a salon and have your hair blow-dried.

**Spritz on a light cologne.** Choose something fresh and upbeat. L'Occitane has a wonderful selection of Eau de Toilette sprays to suit your taste. Or you can even use baby colognes such as Johnson's, Para mi Bebe, Nenuco, Denenes and Famosine.

**Wear colored clothes that complement your skin tone.** You'll look and feel better when you don a hue that makes you look fresher and prettier. But, if your aim is to look slimmer and taller, it might be a good idea to opt for basic black. You can never go wrong with black plus you can appear more glamorous and sophisticated.

**Accessorize!** Whether its a pair of South Sea pearl studs, diamond studs or a choker of semi-precious stones, make sure you wear something that frames your face and flatters your looks… or, in some cases, distracts from it!

I hope you find these tips helpful. They've done wonders for me although ultimately, it really is a case of mind over matter. If all else fails, take time out for yourself. Stay home, read a good book or bum around and watch television all day. Tomorrow will be a better day.

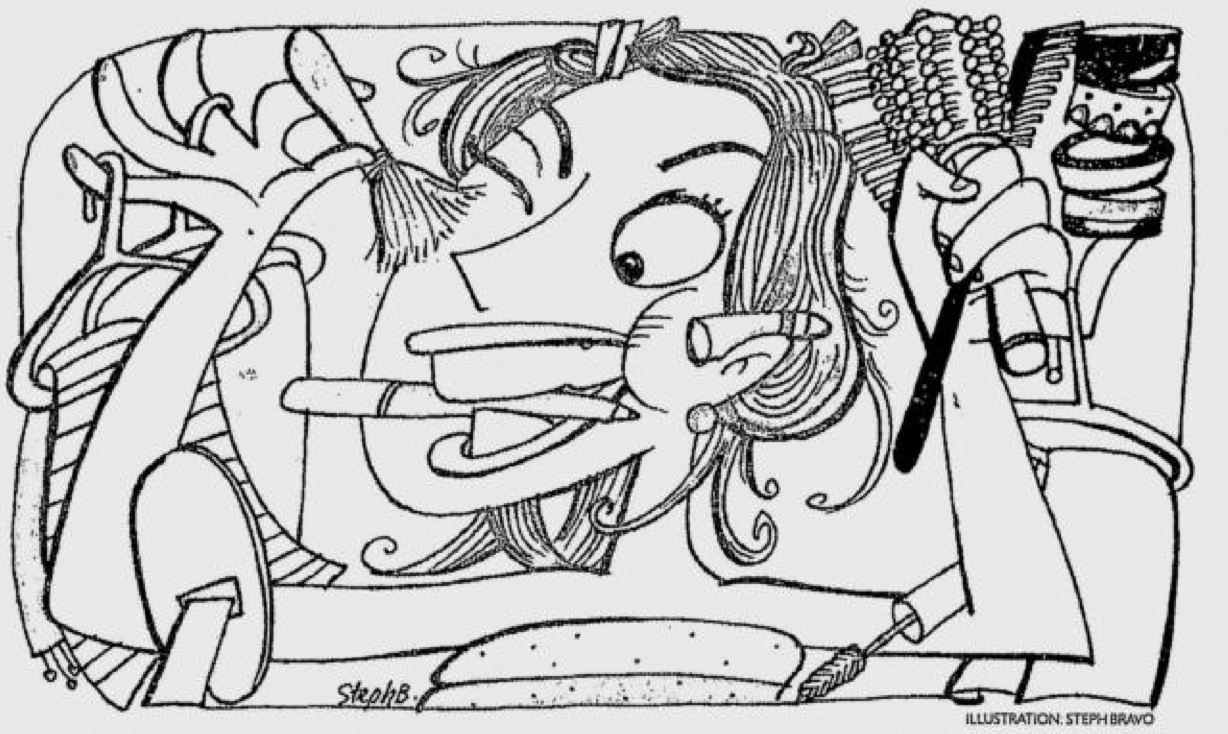

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

**I just bought a deep coral evening suit. The jacket is fitted with a V-neckline and long sleeves while the matching pencil skirt is very plain with a slit in front. Because of the deep V-neck, I need to wear something under the jacket. I will use the outfit to perform on stage. What color and style of top should I choose?**

Since you will be performing on stage, it will help to add a touch of glitz and glamour by choosing a dressy and stylish inner shirt. Given that your suit is rather classic and sedate, an eye-catching top will create the perfect contrast to make your outfit more interesting and attractive.

Since you did not specify what you will be doing on stage, I'm giving you several options to consider. I'm sure you'll know what suits your personality and needs best:

- A sexy satin camisole with a lace trim will soften the look of your tailored suit. Choose one in pale peach, cream or beige to create a subtle monochromatic look.
- A stretch lace tank top will also make you appear more feminine and alluring. You can go for light creams and ivories. If you want a stronger look, go for black lace.
- A fully sequined shell is perfect for this occasion. You can go for the abovementioned colors, depending on the look you want to project. Gold sequins will also look good with your deep coral suit. You can even remove your jacket for a sexier look.
- If you are not into fully embellished tops, why don't you try wearing a soft chiffon spaghetti-strapped top with just a smattering of caviar beads or cream-colored sequins? This is subtler than a fully beaded or sequined top but just as presentable.
- A tube top and corset are also wonderful alternatives. Your tube top can be made of jersey and may be embellished with a bit of beadwork. The corset, on the other hand, can be made of a thicker, stiffer fabric like Thai silk.

During your performance, you may opt to remove your jacket for a sexier and more relaxed look. Don't forget to wear a pair of high-heeled sandals or pumps and keep in mind that the right kind of jewelry, make up and hairstyle will definitely complete your look. Break a leg!

*E-mail the author at apsadvice@hotmail.com*

MARTIN Nievera and John Hall

CK'S Vicky Marchadesch, Ann Wongchuking, April Marquez, Carla Enage and Donna Faylona

CK'S hunks

# Nothing but ...

**By Delia Dans**
*Contributor*

SOMETHING else got my heart racing—the launch of Truth Calvin Klein Men. Now there's nothing I love more than the crisp, clean scent of a man. I like it even better than the smell of a brand new leather Ferragamo bag. And you know how I love my bags.

Part of the launch was a half-naked John Hall, covered with body paint, together with two other sexy male models who were as bare as he. Now I may not be here in the country often, but I do know who John Hall is. He's a hottie!

The gorgeous male specimens moved around, daring us swooning women to sample the scent right off their warm skin. Believe me, liebchens, I could have sniffed all day!

What goes into a bottle of Truth that makes it smell so heavenly? Well, Vicky Marchandesch, the Calvin Klein product manager, gave the details.

Truth Calvin Klein Men is masculinity in its purest form—powerful and sexy. Nature and warmth of skin inspired the scent of Truth. The structure of the scent is centered around a core of canopy greens accented by basil and cardamon to radiate a natural freshness. Sunstruck notes glow throughout to recreate nature's touch. White patchouli, red cedar and wacapou enhance the sensual woods for a new masculine sexiness.

The bottle itself is a work of art, evoking the image of a sensual, relaxed stance of a man. A horizontal glass plane contrasts with the contours and soft curves of the opposite side.

All that work, liebchens, for something that will fit in your hand, and eventually disappear. Ah, the ephemeral qualities of things we love.

What's the launch of a sexy man's cologne without the sexy men? So natch, the place was filled with testosterone, baby. My boy pal, Martin Nievera, concert king and sexy guy, headed my list of Truth Men. Eric Quizon, whom I discovered is a nice, funny guy; VJ Derek Ramsey, whom I met recently at the Famous Bar opening; Jack de Mesa, Anton Gonzalez, D-Boy Trofeo, Paolo Relucio, Philip Cu-Unjieng, Aye Nuguin and Gil Coscolluela.

I also met the owner of 12, Elbert Cuenca. I heard he was into computers and those techie things before moving into food.

### British salon

Another English franchise will soon be here—my hair and I can't wait. Toni & Guy, the hot *institut de beauté*, will soon be here under the management of Chat and Cherry Reyes.

Bernice Palanca was there, Joey Mead, Alvin Anson with Aussie born actor/director, Nikko Macintosh; dear dahling Maurice Arcache; and boys from Ateneo—Michael Pelayo, Martin Mendoza, Toff Tiansay and Carlo Gonzalez. Who else did I see?

Natch, the team from Luxasia, group product manager April Marquez, CK product manager Vicky Marchadesch, CK marketing coordinator Lourdes Enriquez, visual merchandising manager Ed Bacani, product managers Ann Wongchuking and Donna Faylona, marketing coordinator Vhee San Pedro, finance and administration manager Allan Orro, accounting supervisor Che Lavitoria, sales supervisor Ressie Magalong, and GM secretary Weng Jesalva.

Truth Calvin Klein Men is masculinity in its purest form

Now on to our next tale. If Celio was French, then this other opening, liebchens, was German. Did you know that Adidas has been opening stores all around? Well, my favorite store so far is the one in Greenbelt 3, natch. They have everything you would ever need. Not that I really am into sports. But I've been known to tee off once in a while, and I do have a rather cruel backhand, if I may say so myself. And shopping is shopping, liebchens, whether I get Manolo Blahniks or Adidas Alphazetas.

Darling Luli Arroyo cut the ribbon. I met Adidas president John Alonte and Angelica Suiza, the marketing director. Such a remarkable woman. Oh, and the franchise owners Ruby and Jenny David oversaw the whole event.

Adidas has come up with exciting new lines, liebchens, that you'd think they had turned into a fashion house. However, Angge assures me that Adidas will be forever sport.

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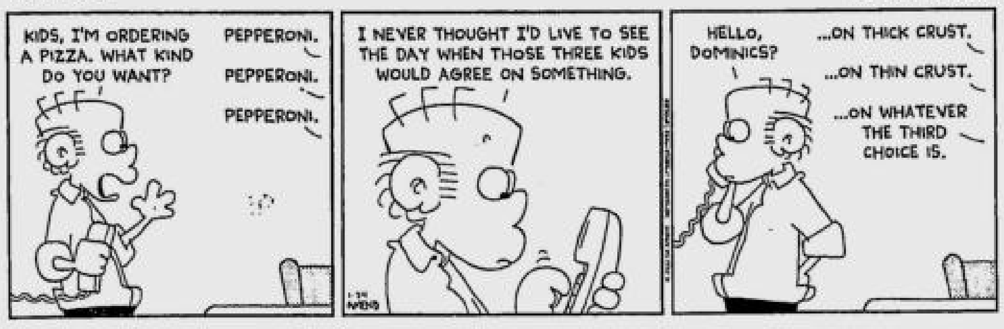
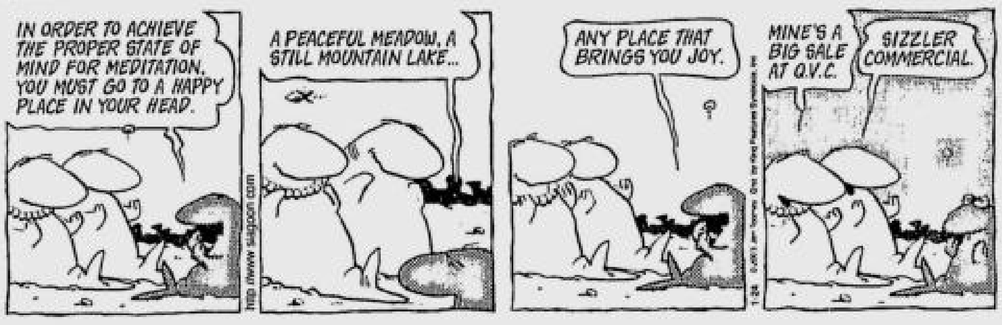
## FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


KIDS, I'M ORDERING A PIZZA. WHAT KIND DO YOU WANT?
PEPPERONI.
PEPPERONI.
PEPPERONI.
I NEVER THOUGHT I'D LIVE TO SEE THE DAY WHEN THOSE THREE KIDS WOULD AGREE ON SOMETHING.
HELLO, DOMINICS?
...ON THICK CRUST.
...ON THIN CRUST.
...ON WHATEVER THE THIRD CHOICE IS.

## SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE THE PROPER STATE OF MIND FOR MEDITATION, YOU MUST GO TO A HAPPY PLACE IN YOUR HEAD.
A PEACEFUL MEADOW, A STILL MOUNTAIN LAKE...
ANY PLACE THAT BRINGS YOU JOY.
MINE'S A BIG SALE AT Q.V.C.
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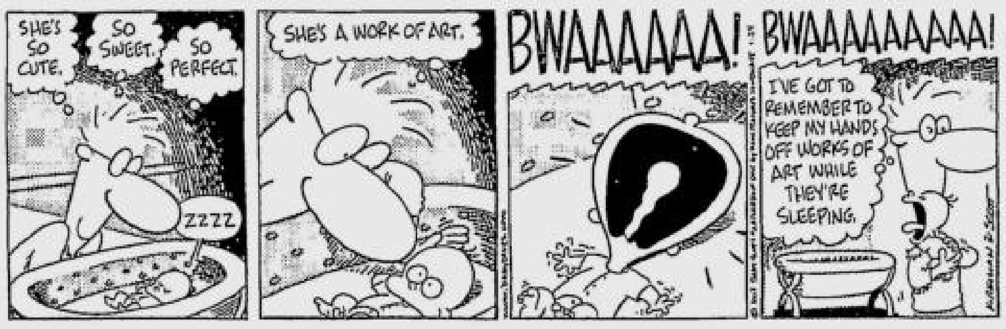
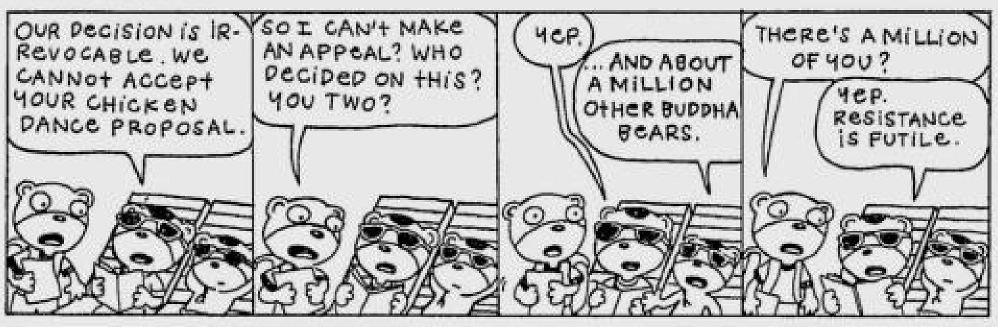
## BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


SHE'S SO CUTE.
SO SWEET.
SO PERFECT.
ZZZZ
SHE'S A WORK OF ART.
BWAAAAAA!
BWAAAAAAAAAA!
I'VE GOT TO REMEMBER TO KEEP MY HANDS OFF WORKS OF ART WHILE THEY'RE SLEEPING.

## ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


OUR DECISION IS IR-REVOCABLE. WE CANNOT ACCEPT YOUR CHICKEN DANCE PROPOSAL.
SO I CAN'T MAKE AN APPEAL? WHO DECIDED ON THIS? YOU TWO?
YEP.
...AND ABOUT A MILLION OTHER BUDDHA BEARS.
THERE'S A MILLION OF YOU?
YEP. RESISTANCE IS FUTILE.

## HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Mary Lou Retton, Oral Roberts, John Belushi, Neil Diamond

**Happy Birthday:** This will be a year to face issues that have been holding you back. Avoid hanging out with people who tend to overindulge. You need to start fresh with an open mind and heart. Only you can change your life. Your numbers are 8, 20, 24, 35, 37, 46

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Take part in a community event and you will discover a host of new interests. Your best efforts will come from work done in partnership, so don't hesitate to volunteer your time.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** You can accomplish far more if you keep things casual. Take clients out to one of your local hangouts for lunch or dinner and you will make a much better impression.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** You may experience delays if you aren't well-organized and prepared. You will be looked up to for your ability to take charge. You will plant some seeds if you talk about your future intentions.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** You are probably overreacting today, so before you decide to give someone an earful, you might want to get all your facts right. If you don't force issues you won't have a problem.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** You owe it to yourself to have a little fun, so don't scrimp today. If you include someone you love, you will make them happy and chances are you will be treated affectionately in return.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** Get fit, get healthy and most of all, learn to love yourself. Check into activities that you think you might enjoy and go sign up. You'll have a greater impact on others.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** You will have a tendency to overindulge today. Problems with some of the people around you may make you want to drown your sorrows. Be strong and lean toward a healthy lifestyle.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** You won't gain any ground if you confront issues today. Sit back and observe how others handle the situation. Your ability to ferret out secret information will help you make a decision.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** Today is not the day to make an important decision. Someone may be feeding you false information. Don't be gullible.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** Be patient and give that angry person some breathing room. Business trips will be successful. Concentrate on clearing up overdue projects.

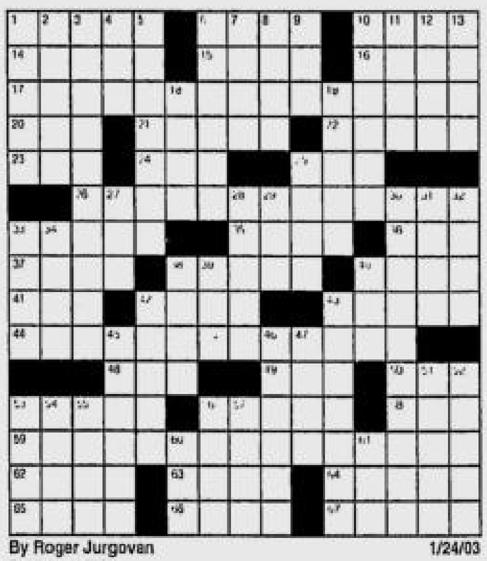
**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** Make an effort to do something worthwhile today. Volunteer your time to an organization that you believe in. Your good will and sincerity will lift your spirits.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** You may be feeling a little under the weather today. Let someone you care for know your needs rather than being miserable.

**Birthday Baby:** You will always look out for others and because of this, you will be a leader among your peers. You will have the wherewithal coupled with the ingenuity to come up with solutions whenever a problem arises.

## DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 German historical region
6 Tanguay and Gabor
10 Galumph
14 Retirement benefits leg.
15 Late-night gagster
16 Luxurious stretch?
17 Beyond words?
20 Bark
21 Cook with dry heat
22 Demeanors
23 Baton Rouge sch.
24 Start-up buttons
25 Wickedness
26 Choice words?
33 Asian calculators
35 Millennia
36 Large pot
37 Labor leader Eugene
38 Hosiery mishaps
40 Gambling mecca
41 Part of A & P
42 Regretted
43 Femme fatale
44 Equivocal words?
48 Friendly lead-in?
49 Afore
50 Knock
53 Persona non __ (unwanted individual)
56 Funeral composition
58 LAX or IAD info
59 Pass words?
62 Actress Sorvino
63 Oodles
64 Banks or Pyle
65 Kill
66 Bears' lairs
67 Ascended



By Roger Jurgovan
Potomac, MD

1/24/03

DOWN
1 Emerald's mineral
2 Localities
3 Dubiously
4 NYC hrs.
5 Kenyan capital
6 Hall of UTEP
7 Geese formations
8 Med. school course
9 Part of SSA
10 Statement of grievance
11 Gin-and-tonic garnish
12 Harbinger
13 Puts on
18 Zero
19 Vents
25 "The __ of Katie Elder"
27 Mil. training program
28 Prepare
29 Holiday drink
30 Exercises excessively
31 Undoing
32 School near Windsor
33 Arkin or West
34 __ blocker
38 __ wrestling
39 Learning org.
40 __ Grande
42 Used tire
43 Lip-curler
45 Sell out
46 Brimless hats
47 Thus
51 Golfer Palmer
52 Primp
53 P.E. rooms
54 Disturb
55 Halo
56 Glen
57 PC image
60 Young boy
61 Non-invasive diagnostic

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| R | A | B | B | I | | F | A | I | R | S | | L | A | B |
| O | C | E | A | N | | A | I | S | N | E | | E | G | O |
| T | H | E | Y | S | A | Y | T | H | A | T | H | A | R | D |
| H | E | N | | I | L | E | S | | | T | E | P | E | E |
| | | | S | G | T | | | B | E | L | A | T | E | D |
| W | O | R | K | H | A | S | N | E | V | E | R | | | |
| A | W | A | I | T | | H | O | N | E | S | | G | E | M |
| R | E | I | N | | V | O | I | D | S | | M | I | D | I |
| D | S | I | | D | O | U | S | E | | E | A | G | E | R |
| | | | K | I | L | L | E | D | A | N | Y | O | N | E |
| C | H | E | A | S | E | D | | | S | H | A | | | |
| L | E | N | T | O | | | A | H | I | A | | C | D | S |
| I | S | A | Y | W | H | Y | C | H | A | N | C | E | I | T |
| P | E | T | | N | I | E | C | E | | C | A | N | N | A |
| S | T | E | | S | T | A | T | E | | E | N | T | E | R |

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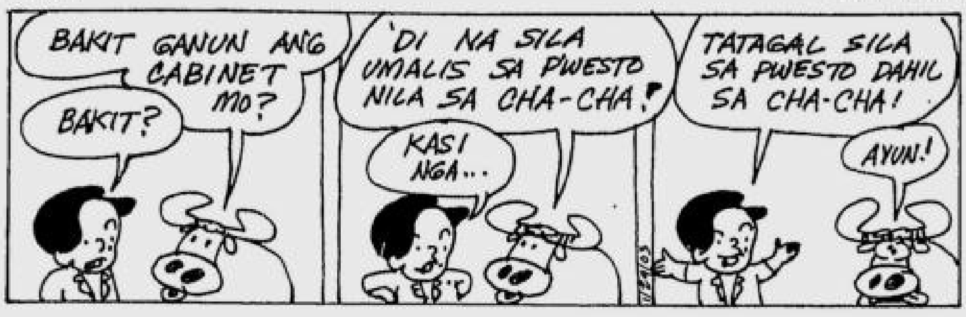
1/24/03

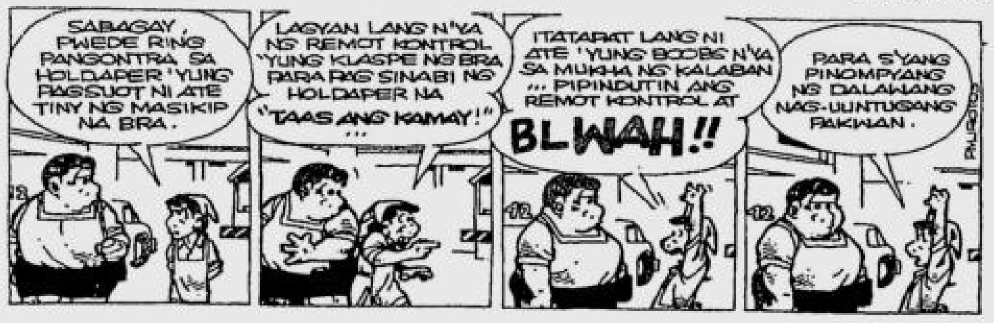
## A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


BAKIT GANUN ANG CABINET MO?
BAKIT?
'DI NA SILA UMALIS SA PWESTO NILA SA CHA-CHA!
KASI NGA...
TATAGAL SILA SA PWESTO DAHIL SA CHA-CHA!
AYUN!

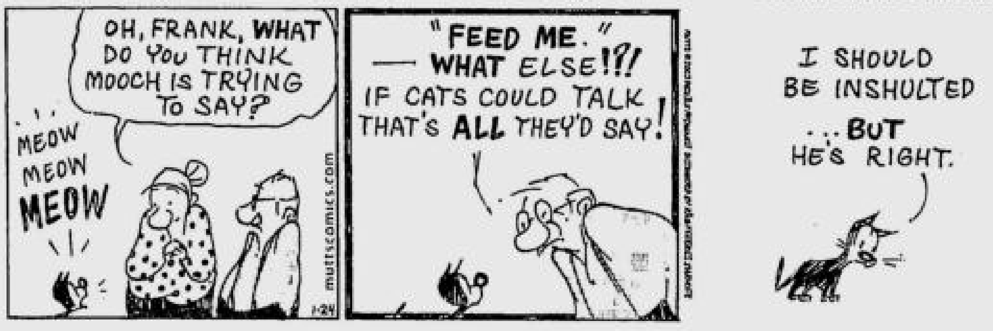
## PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


SABAGAY, PWEDE RING PANGONTRA SA HOLDAPER 'YUNG PAGSUOT NI ATE TINY NG MASIKIP NA BRA.
LAGYAN LANG N'YA NG REMOT KONTROL 'YUNG KLASPE NG BRA PARA PAG SINABI NG HOLDAPER NA "TAAS ANG KAMAY!" ...
ITATAPAT LANG NI ATE 'YUNG BOOBS N'YA SA MUKHA NG KALABAN ... PIPINDUTIN ANG REMOT KONTROL AT
BLWAH!!
PARA S'YANG PINOMPYANG NG DALAWANG NAG-UUNTUGANG PAKWAN.

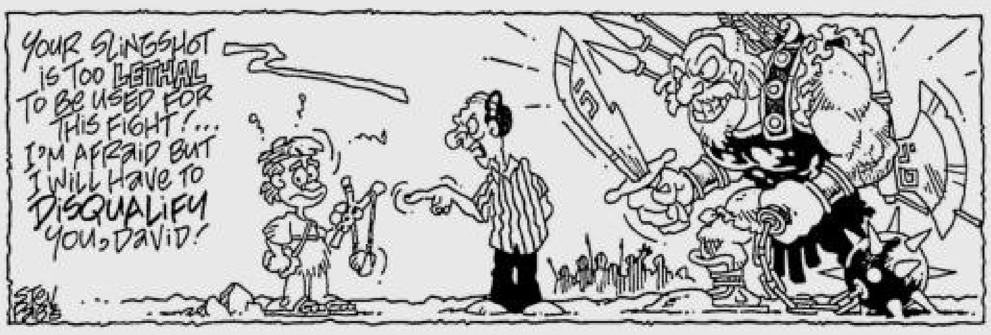
## MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


OH, FRANK, WHAT DO YOU THINK MOOCH IS TRYING TO SAY?
MEOW MEOW MEOW
"FEED ME." — WHAT ELSE!?! IF CATS COULD TALK THAT'S ALL THEY'D SAY!
I SHOULD BE INSHULTED ...BUT HE'S RIGHT.
mutts comics.com

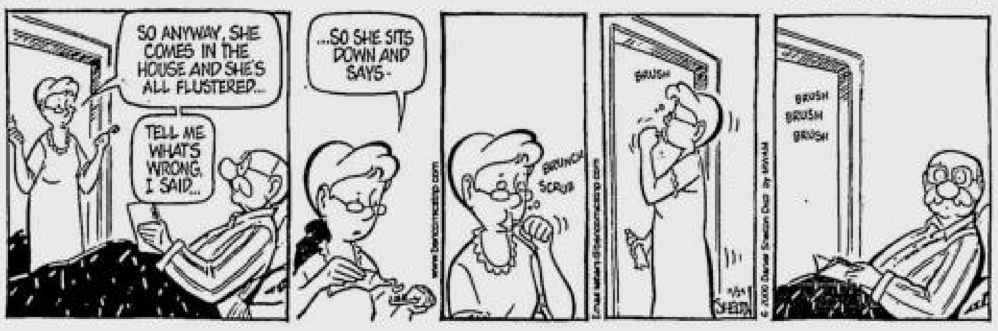
## DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


YOUR SLINGSHOT IS TOO LETHAL TO BE USED FOR THIS FIGHT!... I'M AFRAID BUT I WILL HAVE TO DISQUALIFY YOU, DAVID!

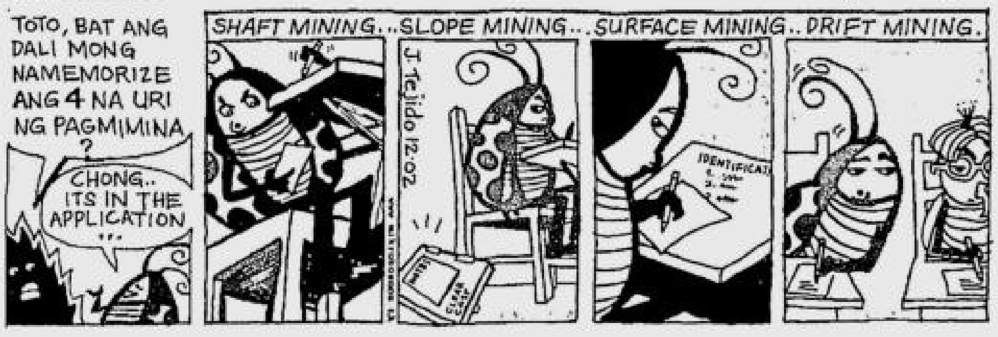
## BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


SO ANYWAY, SHE COMES IN THE HOUSE AND SHE'S ALL FLUSTERED...
TELL ME WHAT'S WRONG, I SAID...
...SO SHE SITS DOWN AND SAYS-
BRUSH
SCRUB
BRUSH
BRUSH
BRUSH
BRUSH

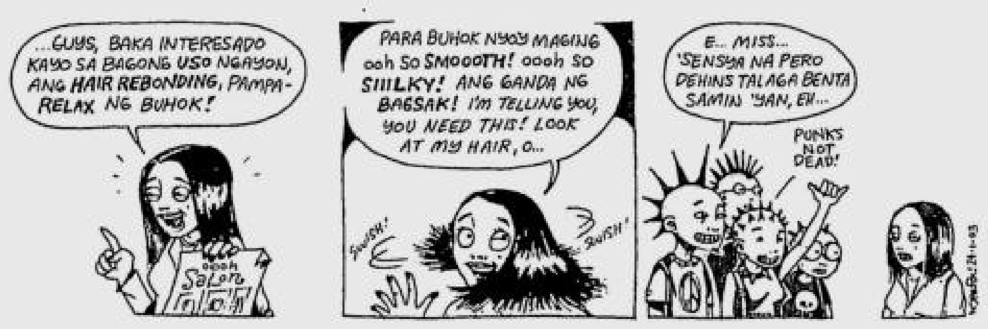
## MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


TOTO, BAT ANG DALI MONG NAMEMORIZE ANG 4 NA URI NG PAGMIMINA?
CHONG.. ITS IN THE APPLICATION...
SHAFT MINING.
..SLOPE MINING...
SURFACE MINING..
DRIFT MINING.
J Tejido 12.02

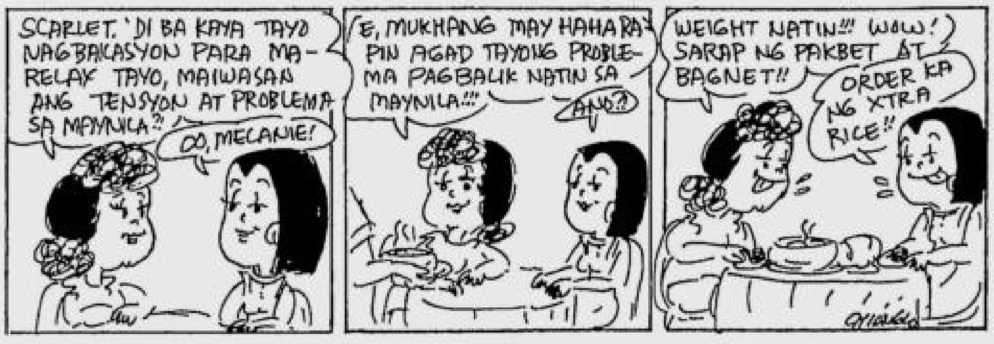
## KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


...GUYS, BAKA INTERESADO KAYO SA BAGONG USO NGAYON, ANG HAIR REBONDING, PAMPA-RELAX NG BUHOK!
PARA BUHOK NYO'Y MAGING ooh SO SMOOOTH! oooh SO SIIILKY! ANG GANDA NG BAGSAK! I'm TELLING YOU, YOU NEED THIS! LOOK AT MY HAIR, O...
SWISH!
SWISH!
E... MISS... 'SENSYA NA PERO DEHINS TALAGA BENTA SAMIN 'YAN, EH...
PUNKS NOT DEAD!

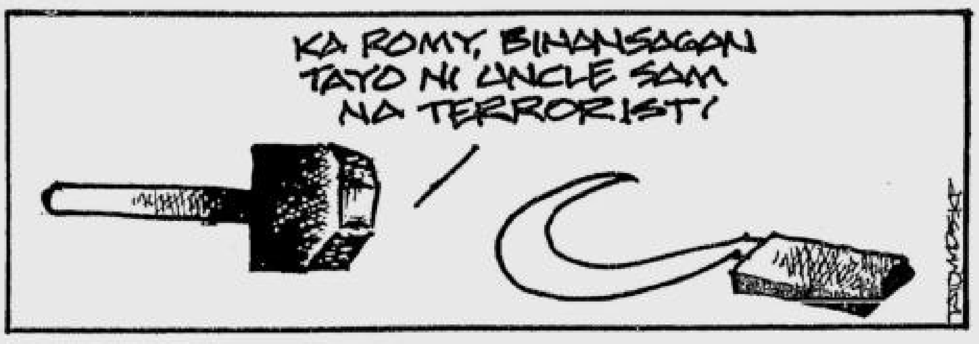
## LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

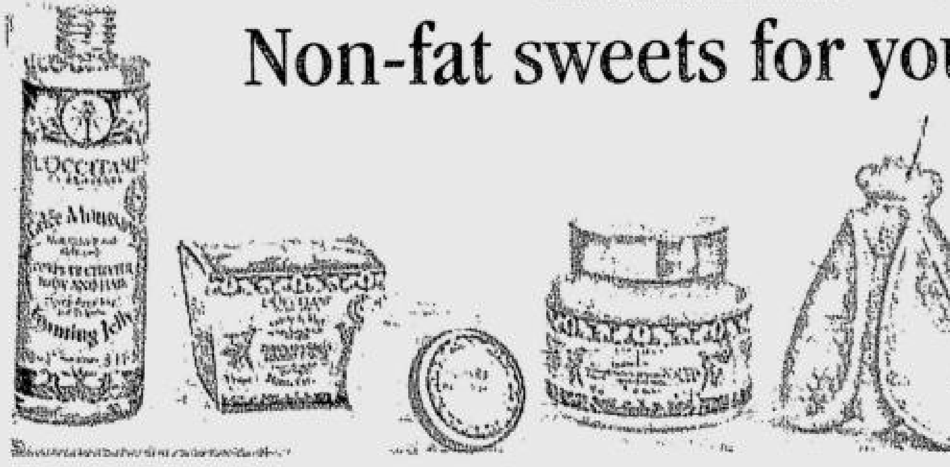

SCARLET, 'DI BA KAYA TAYO NAGBAKASYON PARA MA-RELAX TAYO, MAIWASAN ANG TENSYON AT PROBLEMA SA MAYNILA?!
OO, MELANIE!
E, MUKHANG MAY HAHARAPIN AGAD TAYONG PROBLEMA PAGBALIK NATIN SA MAYNILA!!!
ANO?!
WEIGHT NATIN!!! WOW! SARAP NG PAKBET AT BAGNET!!
ORDER KA NG XTRA RICE!!

## TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


KA ROMY, BINANSAGAN TAYO NI UNCLE SAM NA TERRORIST!

# Non-fat sweets for your honey



**MAKEOVER 911**

*Kinny Salas*

STARTING this Friday till Valentine's day, this column will be devoted to gift ideas and Valentine's beauty tips. This idea came to mind when male friends started bombarding me with questions on what to give their girlfriends on V-Day. Common complaint on this day: Flowers are expected and stopping there shows a lack of imagination. Others find them so expensive because flower shops do take advantage.

What else can a guy give that won't cost the earth? One option: Girls love body and bathing products the way guys love car accessories. Body and bathing products make us feel pampered and confident to face the world because we feel good about ourselves. In fact, the bathroom is the woman's little hideaway.

Sweets? Much as we love them, we can't afford to eat them because we are still trying to shed the pounds we packed during the holidays! Give something that smells yummy and feels luxurious but don't contain calories.

**Clinique Body Butter** (Rustan's Dept. Store). Imagine the scent and texture of crème brulée or panna cotta without the fat. Best applied after a shower and exfoliation, a little amount spreads a long way and skin gets hydrated without feeling greasy. Her skin will feel silky and have that subtle yummy smell that will not clash with her cologne. Body Shop has Body Butters too and my fave scents are shea butter and olives. The scent is stronger than Clinique's so make sure your scent will complement it. BBs are designed to treat dry, cracked, flaking and irritated skin. I strongly recommend them also for thick, rough areas like the feet, elbows and knees.

As chocolate substitutes, give **St. Ives Chocolate Body Wash,** P120, and **Milk Maides Chocolate Body Bath** (Essences). The latter may be used as bubble bath. In my experience, if you intoxicate yourself with the smell of chocolate you lose the craving for the real thing.

**L'Occitane Honey Harvest** face and body products. (Essences). It is perhaps no great coincidence that honey has become a favorite endearment among couples. It gives that nostalgic feeling of comfort and evokes memories of grandma's kitchen while its sweet intoxicating scent is sexy and inviting as well. The Romans were known to slather honey on their mistresses during passionate encounters.

Honey has long been known to have healing properties and is often recommended as treatment for those with sensitive skin. It is also known to soothe, protect, nourish and strengthen. Honey's effective ingredients are: Propolis, the "cement" that bees use to strengthen their hives has soothing and anti-inflammatory properties; Royal Jelly is aptly named as this is only eaten by the queen bee and has nourishing and energizing properties.

**Honey Face Cream,** 50 ml (Essences). No strong sweet smell but it hydrates and softens skin keeping it supple and moisturized all day. Aside from making your dry sensitive skin look radiant, this minimizes redness, irritation and eases the tight itchy feeling. **Honey Body Balm.** Nonsticky, hydrates and is quickly absorbed leaving skin soft and delicately scented with honey. Note: It has a stronger scent of honey than the face cream so smell first as some may find its sweet smell unappealing. **Bee Soap.** Ideal even for baby's skin as it gently cleanses and has moisturizing lather. This bee-shaped soap is ideal as bathroom decoration and gives your powder room a comforting scent. **Honey Foaming Jelly for Body and Hair.** In the shower, this gel transforms to a silky fragrant mousse, which is luxurious to the touch. Ideal for all hair types except the very oily as you will have to use much more to get that clean feeling.

CLINIQUE
deep comfort
body butter

**Woods of Windsor Orange Spice and Cinnamon Soap, Incense and Shower Gel,** P345 (Essences Rustan's). If your girlfriend is perpetually late, moves so slow and keeps you waiting, this is the perfect set. Orange spice turns a night owl into the perkiest morning person! Whenever I have a late night and have to be alert the next morning, I jump into the shower and give myself the scrubdown. I even have the scented sachets for my drawers and closets. It instantly clears my mind and I leave the house well organized and not forgetting a thing. People comment that I smell so clean and fresh too. Warning: Do not use before bedtime as you will have the worst case of insomnia. By far, this brand is one of the most reasonably priced in Essences.

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# *Makeup stylist's one-stop shop*

JOSON

CHECHEL Joson may have been in the makeup styling profession for only a year but the ease with which she picks, say, a lip color, or a shade of blush, is definitely that of a veteran. Blame it on the countless fashion shows and magazine pictorials she's styled in the past months. Or those crash courses in makeup she took in New York, or long afternoons spent in front of makeup counters trying on new products, brands and shades.

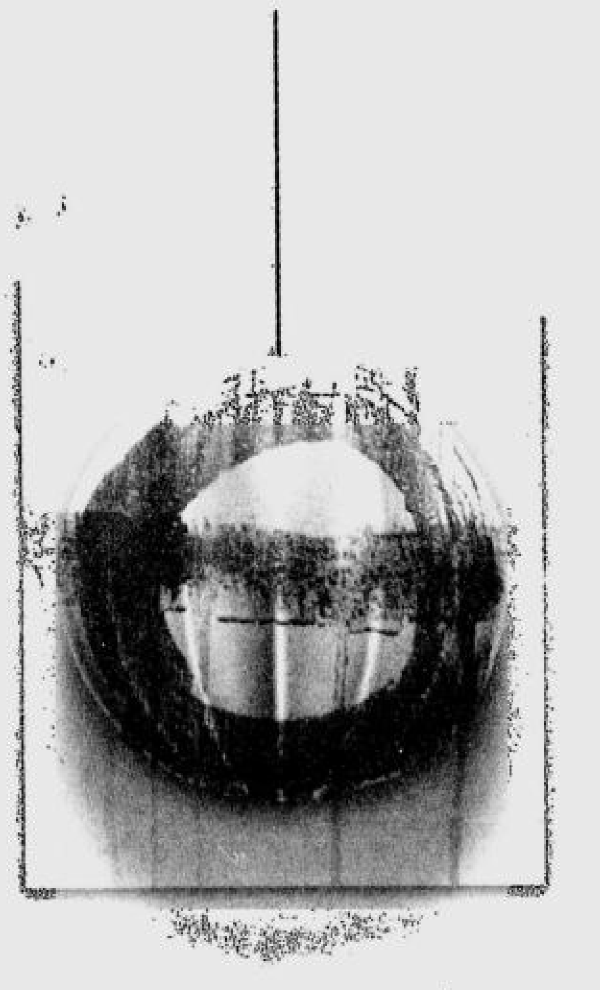
Here in Manila, Joson, like many makeup artists, frequently finds herself going to Beauty Bar, the one-stop shop for makeup and other beauty and pampering essentials. At the store's Rockwell branch recently, she checked out the new brands and makeup colors for 2003. She finds that not only does the store carry many of the hottest brands of cosmetics from various fashion capitals, it regularly updates its lineup of offerings from the newest shades to makeup innovations and tools. Joson herself owns a variety of palettes from Three Custom Color (3CC), just one of the many brands in the Beauty Bar.

This artist does not leave home without her Tony & Tina Herbal Rice Powder, which adds shine to the usual loose powder, Burt's Bees lip balm to moisturize lips, Sue Devitt's Bermuda Triangle Concealer to hide those dark eye circles, Smashbox eye pencil, 3CC's lip palette, and Bloom's lip glaze for that extra shine on your lips. She has a lot of nudes and pink shades. Joson makes sure she also has strong colors in her kit. She believes in a flawless base and a smooth canvas, while emphasizing only the lips.

Her love and passion for beauty has certainly paid off, for even her colleagues have taken notice.

Beauty Bar is located at Glorietta 2, Power Plant Mall, Shangri-La Plaza Mall, The Podium, Alabang Town Center, Festival Supermall, Katipunan and Greenbelt 3.

JOSON'S choice makeup for teens



Anita Magsaysay-Ho

Lao Lianben

Malang

Discover the art of celebrating Chinese New Year in the Philippines.

2003, the Year of the Goat, is predicted to bring harmony and creativity. That's why to welcome the Chinese New Year in the Philippines, HSBC presents "Festival of Lights" featuring some of the country's premier artists.

From 01-09 February 2003, over a dozen lanterns decorated by renowned painters and sculptors will be on display at the Grand Atrium of the Shangri-la Plaza Mall.

Be part of the celebration, as the world's local bank presents a line-up of activities that pays tribute to Filipino and Chinese artistry and brings together the best of both cultures on this special occasion.

Participating Artists:
Napoleon Abueva, Lexigius Calip, Raul Isidro, Eugene Jarque, Lao Lianben, Liña Lao, Jojo Lofranco, Anita Magsaysay-Ho, Malang, Ramon Orlina, Mona Santos, Soler Santos, Steve Santos, Mac Valdezco

Shangri-La Plaza

HSBC
The world's local bank

Issued by The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited

HSBC celebrates the Year of the Goat with the following line-up of activities:

Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Grand Atrium

25 January
1:30 p.m. Lion Dance by the Philippine Ling Nam Athletic Association
2:30 p.m. Wushu and Taichi Exhibition by the Philippine National Champions

26 January
1:00 p.m. Dragon Dance by the Philippine Ling Nam Athletic Association
3:00 p.m. Chinese Opera by the Southern Chinese Opera Group

01-09 February Festival of Lights

The Enterprise Center, Central Lobby

27 January - 02 February
Chinese Painting Exhibit by the Chan Lim Family of Artists

# Watsons

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~~P4.40/pc.~~
P4.00/pc.

**Cecon 15's**
~~P4.40/pc.~~
P3.90/pc.

**Biguerlai**
Tea Can
only P180.00

**Bavarian Brew**
Slimming Coffee
only P178.75

**Pharmaton 30's**
w/ **FREE** Alarm Clock
only P525.75

**Borherding 2.8g**
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**KAZ Vaporizer**
only P648.00

**Blue Cross One Step**
Urine Pregnancy Test 10's
~~P79.75~~
P71.75

# SALE SALE

Now thru January 31

**Watsons**
Hair Deodorant Mist/ Clean Spray
~~P199.75~~
P139.75

**Instant Sticks**
(assorted)
~~P119.75~~
P89.75

**Max Factor**
25% off selected items

**Revlon Streetwear**
25% off selected items

**Ever Bilena**
50% off selected items

**ZA Cosmetics**
FREE Two (2) SM Movie Cards with every P700 purchase

**Astring-o-sol**
Fresh & Minty
250 ml
buy 1 get 2nd Item at 50% OFF
only P199.00

**Neutrogena**
UV Compact (light / Natural /Rosy)
buy 1 get 2nd Item at 50% OFF
only P899.75

**Golden Fabulouz**
Hot Hair Gloss 50ml
Buy One Take One
~~P240.00~~
P169.00

**Golden Fabulouz**
Cocomilk Hot Oil 500ml
Buy One Take One
only P164.75

**Erth Origins**
Papaya Bar Soap 135g
Buy One Take One
only P29.75

**Bare Essentials**
Body Lotion/Scrub 250ml
Foot Lotion/Scrub 200ml
(all variants)
Buy One Take One
only P99.00

**Body Essence**
(selected items)
Buy One Take One
only P89.75

**Colgate**
Twister Toothbrush
~~P32.75~~
P26.00

**Aquafresh Toothpaste**
Fresh n' Minty
75g 3's
~~P84.00~~
P69.00

**BF Mouthrinse**
(all variants)
500ml
~~P79.75~~
P69.00

**Golden Fabulouz**
Shampoo / Conditioner 1L
(lemon / apple)
only P169.75

**Erth Origins Hot Oil Cream**
500 ml (all variants)
~~P149.75~~
P99.75

**Wet n' Wild**
B! Cosmetic
Liquid Eyeliner
~~P149.50~~
P119.75

**Caring Colours**
Everlasting
Lip Color
~~P320.00~~
P160.00

**Erth Origins Glycerin**
Fruity Soap 4's
~~P149.75~~
P69.00

**Erth Origins**
**Body Wash**
500ml
Lemon, Apple, Peach, Green Tea
~~P129.75~~
P69.00

**Erth Origins**
Papaya Whitening Lotion
~~P139.75~~
P109.75

**Erth Origins**
Germicidal Hand Wash
( all variants )
~~P90.75~~
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**Tender Care Talc 100g 2's**
w/ FREE Lotion 100ml
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Deo Spray for women
150ml
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**Nivea Firming Lotion**
200ml
& Original Lotion
75ml
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**Liquid Neutrogena 175ml &**
**Moisture SPF15**
w/ FREE Alcohol Toner
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w/ Body Oil
250ml
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Body Wash 1L
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**Watsons**
Healthy Skin
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only P99.00

**Watsons**
Lotion
400ml
(all variants)
~~P109.75~~
P79.75

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only P99.00

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Satin Moist
Lipstick
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Pantyliners 10's (6's)
Maxi Reg. 8's (4's)
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Bathroom Tissue
2 ply (24's)
~~P268.00~~
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**Tissue 24's 2 ply**
~~P79.75~~
P69.00

**Extra/ Sofeel**
Travel Pack Tissue 2 ply
(100's)
~~P14.75~~
P9.95

**Giggles Baby Wipes 60's**
~~P74.75~~
P59.75

**Watsons**
Cotton Balls 750's
~~P160.00~~
P69.00

**Ponds** Skin White Vit. Cream 50 ml, Shine Control Face Powder, Facial Wash Anti Bac. 50 ml w/ FREE T-Shirt
only P259.75

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0098 Series of 2003

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Every P300 single or accumulated purchase entitles you to a discount coupon.

Offer good at David's Salon in all SM Malls, Festival Mall and at David's Day Spa in SM City Fairview & SM Megamall A.

See Mechanics Poster for details

DAVID'S SALON
[illegible]

DAVID'S
Day Spa

[illegible] YOU LOOK GOOD. WE LOOK GOOD. [illegible]

[illegible]